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### Majali meets Melchite patriarch

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday received the visiting head of the Melchite Church, Patriarch Marimos Hakim of Antioch and All Orient, and reviewed with him the latest developments in the Middle East and the efforts made by His Majesty King Hussein to establish a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. Patriarch Hakim voiced happiness over his meeting with the prime minister, saying that Dr. Majali briefed him on the Jordanian view towards the peace negotiations. Patriarch Hakim said the issue of Jerusalem was one of the most important albeit difficult problems facing the Arab and Muslim nations. He stressed his belief that Jerusalem should be restored to Arab sovereignty.

# Jordan Times

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### Jordan invites S. African leaders to visit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein is extending an invitation to South Africa's new president, Nelson Mandela and the outgoing President, F.W. de Klerk, to visit Jordan, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid said Sunday. In a statement before departure for South Africa to attend the inauguration of Mr. Mandela on Tuesday Prince Ra'd said that he was carrying the invitation from the King to the South African leaders and greetings from the leaders and people of Jordan to the South African leaders and people. Prince Ra'd, who is leading a Jordanian official delegation to attend the inauguration ceremony, said Jordan views Mr. Mandela's victory as a major historic event and a harbinger of a new era of progress and peace in Africa. "Jordan has always opposed apartheid and racial discrimination and the event is viewed by the Kingdom as an indication of a beginning of an era of tranquility and peace in the African continent," Prince Ra'd said.

## Battle for Aden under way

Combined agency despatches

NORTHERN TROOPS loyal to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh tightened the noose around the city of Aden Sunday and were poised to break through the gates of the southern stronghold, diplomats said.

"Aden is expected to fall within hours," the official northern-controlled press agency SABA said, adding that heavy fighting was going on around the town between rival northern and southern troops.

Two northern units trying to advance towards Aden met strong resistance, a senior U.S. official who tried to mediate in the conflict said.

"As I understand it, there are two separate northern units that are trying to move towards Aden," Robert Pelletreau, a U.S. assistant secretary of state responsible for the Middle East, told reporters in Abu Dhabi.

"They are now both of them being blocked by southern units who are resisting very strongly."

His was one of the few independent reports on a conflict carving up the country of 13 million four years after it united.

With international telecommunication links with Aden and San'a still erratic, an independent verification of the conflicting victory claims was not immediately possible.

However, Western diplomats in Sana'a and oil company executives with links to both

### Beidh reportedly contacts King Hussein offering talks

YEMENI Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh on Sunday contacted His Majesty King Hussein saying he was ready for a political dialogue with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Aden Radio said in a report monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation. There was no Jordanian confirmation of the report.

King Hussein brought President Saleh and Vice-President Beidh as well as other Yemeni political leaders together in Amman in February to sign a reconciliation and reform agreement. However, the accord was not implemented, and the King said last month that Jordan was leaving a joint military commission entrusted with separating the northern and southern army units.

sides said Saturday the north-erners appear to have gained the upper hand.

Western diplomats in the region said the city's main air base at Al Anad, 50 kilometres from Aden had been captured by the northern troops.

But this was swiftly denied by an official southern spokesman as "completely baseless."

He told the local Aden office of SABA under southern control that troops backing Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, a southerner, controlled the whole of the Lahij province where the airbase is sited.

He also categorically denied that fighting was going on "at the gates of Aden," accusing Mr. Saleh's troops of having bombed villages and civilian buildings in Al Dhaleh, 60 kilometres north of Aden.

One diplomat in the Gulf said Mr. Saleh's troops had Aden trapped in a pincer

Other northern elements had been ambushed and wiped out in Redfan, to the north, military spokesmen in Aden said.

But SABA reported in Sana'a that a brigade of southern troops had been destroyed in the Abyan province, and two warplanes shot down near Al Dhaleh.

Correspondents said the situation in Aden was calm, although civilians had begun patrolling alongside soldiers carrying automatic weapons distributed to them earlier by the southern authorities.

Aden residents said that, a leaf chewed as a stimulant by many Yemenis, was back in the souks of Aden, an indication that roads were open from Daea, the main source.

Aden city was back to normal on Sunday. Banks, businesses, schools and restaurants were open.

Witnesses in Aden said two northern planes were shot down over the city on Saturday. One was apparently trying to bomb Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh's residence, they said.

Witnesses saw about 30 warplanes taking off early on Sunday from Aden towards Abyan province.

Northern Yemen said southern forces launched three air raids on Sana'a on Sunday after firing at least five Scud missiles at the city and nearby areas during the night.

Sana'a Radio broadcast a message to residents in the south, telling them northern troops were about to take over

Aden and surrounding areas to re-unite the country.

Southern sources had earlier called the Abyan battle a decisive one. "The battles are very fierce and at close quarters... the battle is the last and the decisive one in the Yemen war," one said.

The northern Amaliga Brigade has its main base in Zingibar and its troops are stationed in other areas in Abyan.

The southern statement said its forces destroyed Amaliga fortifications in several areas in fierce fighting and "succeeded in destroying many of its advancing forces."

"To cover their retreat Amaliga are taking refuge in people's homes and using civilians as human shields," it said.

The old downtown of Aden, a former British protectorate, lies at the foot of mountains and is built on a peninsula, leaving the southern troops vulnerable in case of a northern advance into the city.

"If Aden falls, the psychological impact will be so great that the north will have virtually won," one diplomat said.

Neither side has issued a casualty toll since all-out fighting broke out on Thursday, four years after the country was set up by uniting the old conservative North Yemen and Marxist South Yemen.

But an Islamic party supporting the president said Saturday that at least 150 people had died.

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His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday lays the foundation stone for a JD 50 million, 643-bed hospital at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid (Petra photo)

## King lays foundation stone of JD 50m, 643-bed Irbid hospital

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday laid the foundation stone of King Abdullah Hospital at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

The ceremony was attended by the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Said Al Tal, Chief Islamic Justice and the King's advisor Izzedin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, JUST President Kamel Al-Jouani and senior military and civil officials.

In a statement to the press following his visit to the university, King Hussein said the hospital is designed to be a "scientific edifice, providing excellent opportunities for future doctors to attain the highest academic qualifications."

King Hussein voiced satisfaction with the academic

levels achieved by this young university and stressed the important role it can play.

"I believe this university is the jewel of our universities because of its focus on our homeland's future needs and the preparation of our youth to perform their big role and face up to the challenges," King Hussein said.

What has been achieved at the university and in Jordan as a whole is the fruit of dedication, hard and untiring work, the King said.

He stressed the need on the part of universities to focus on preparing students for production work that help fulfil the country's needs rather than to qualify them for a degree only.

The King met with the JUST president and deans of faculties.

The King was accompanied

by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's military advisor and chief escort Major General Hmeidi Al Fayed.

The King Abdullah Hospital project will be carried out at a cost of JD 50 million, to be covered by the treasury in the Arab Fund for Economic Development and the Jeddah-based Islamic Bank.

The hospital, which will have 643 beds, will provide 3,000 job opportunities. The project is being carried out by a Spanish company.

Work on the project started in early 1994 and is expected to end in 1997.

Once completed, the hospital will bring to 12 the number of hospital beds per 10,000 population up from the current rate of nine per 10,000. The hospital's outpatient clinics will attend to 1,000 patients a day.

## Hebron observers get whiff of tension

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — International observers moved into Hebron on Sunday and got their first taste of tension in the town where a Jewish settler massacred more than 30 Palestinians in a mosque in February.

Shortly after the 117 unarmed observers in white uniforms drove into Hebron, clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers outside the mayor's office where the observers stopped for a courtesy call.

The troops fired tear-gas at stone-throwers, who shouted "settlers out." Some observers got caught in the gas cloud. "It was not a nice experience. I did not expect it would be this bad," said Grethe Bille, a Danish observer who said a Palestinian gave her an onion to sniff to ease the effects of gas. "I do not see why the military is provocative to the people here."

The force, officially the Temporary International Presence in the city of Hebron (TIPH), arrived in a convoy escorted by Israeli army jeeps. The main task of members, sent by Norway, Denmark and Italy, will be to monitor the safety of Palestinians in the town.

"The purpose is to try to bring the situation back prior

to the massacre in the mosque," mission head Kjell Johansen of Norway told reporters just before the force entered Hebron.

"Maybe they need the protection, not us," said a woman named Basma hugging a child crying from tears as lobbed by soldiers.

The army teargassed stone-throwing youths as the observers emerged from an official reception at the town hall, just 200 metres away.

The unarmed observers did not seem too bothered as they clambered into their cars for a drive around the city.

Hundreds of Palestinians had applauded as the TIPH entered the town aboard a fleet of all-white cars.

Palestinians celebrated by cheering and honking their car horns outside the reception. But off to the side, youngsters taunted troops and lobbed rocks in a daily scene from the intifada against occupation.

The observers — the first international force Israel has allowed to deploy in the occupied territories — were greeted by Hebron Mayor Mustapha Natsha.

"We look forward to seeing that your presence here will provide our people with a feeling of security and that you will

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Some of the 270 Palestinian policemen whose entry to the occupied West Bank was delayed on Sunday by Israel pose for photographers at their temporary camp near the King Hussein Bridge (Photo by Youssef Al Allan)

## Failure of police to enter disappoints Palestinians

From Mariam Shahin in Jericho

EXPECTATIONS were high and the atmosphere was full of disbelief as thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank town of Jericho on Sunday awaited the first symbols of self-rule autonomy to enter the Israeli-occupied territories in 27 years.

But as noon came and went Palestinians realised that the entry of the Palestinian National Security Forces (PNSF) would be delayed yet again.

A last-minute disagreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership in Tunis and the Israeli government about the mode in which the

PNSF's Kalashnikov rifles and pistols would enter the occupied territories delayed the entry of PNSF units into Gaza and Jericho up to 72 hours.

"They are teasing us," said Ahmad Sherif, who had come to Jericho to welcome some 270 PNSF members

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## House endorses sales tax law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament on Sunday approved a draft sales tax law after introducing several amendments to it.

The House, meeting under the chairmanship of Speaker Taher Al Masri and in the presence of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Cabinet members, endorsed the law after debating the law starting with its 35th article. The article deals with punitive measures that should be taken against tax evaders. Deputies were divided over penalties as stipulated in the article.

While some deputies supported the penalties stated in the law as drafted by the government, others said that these penalties were "harsh" and incompatible with the

penal code, since other crimes much bigger than tax evasion have their penalties less than stated in the draft sales tax law, or amendments to it by the House's Financial Committee.

The article was then passed by the House after introducing several amendments to it.

Then the House approved the remaining articles of the draft law and appendices of commodities exempt from the tax. The law now goes before the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) for approval.

Observers expected the Upper House to insist on some of the original articles of the law as proposed by the government and this could lead to a deadlock, which could only be resolved at a

joint session of the two Houses.

The main amendments introduced by the Lower House involve a reduction of the base rate of the sales tax to seven per cent from the 10 per cent proposed by the government, scheduling the second phase of the implementation of the tax plan five years after the first phase instead of the three years sought by the government and a stipulation that the list of goods exempt from the levy be part of the law rather than leaving it to the government to decide them.

The amendments are estimated to reduce up to JD 45 million from the envisaged JD 170 million revenues from the levy in the fiscal budget for 1994.

## PLO puts off naming of self-government authority

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has delayed for the next week the naming of its team to take charge in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghoshe said on Sunday.

Mr. Ghoshe, who had said on Saturday that the Palestinian National Authority would be named within 48 hours, told Reuters on Sunday PLO leader Yasser Arafat needed more time for consultations.

"There is a draft list, but the first consultations showed that more time was needed. Some of the nominees rejected the offer. Others delayed their responses," Mr. Ghoshe said.

PLO sources told Reuters among nominees reluctant to be on the authority are chief negotiator Faisal Al Hussami, Ahmad Qourie, the man who negotiated the secret peace deal with Israel, and Maher Al Masri, a businessman from the West Bank town of Nabulus.

"It is the first time in their history the Palestinians have to name a self-government. It is not that easy," a close aide to

Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Ghoshe said the team will probably be named after Mr. Arafat returns from Nelson Mandela's presidential inauguration in South Africa on Tuesday.

The PLO Executive Committee, which will oversee the authority, decided on a delay at a meeting in Tunis on Saturday night chaired by Mr. Arafat, he said.

"More work is also needed to define the duties of the authority and its internal rules," Mr. Ghoshe said.

Under the agreement on Palestinian self-rule, signed on Wednesday by Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the PLO must inform the Israeli government of the composition of the team.

The 24-strong authority, which will be chaired by Mr. Arafat, was likely to be a coalition of the PLO's mainstream movement Fateh, independents, Yasser Abed-Rabbo's "FIDA" movement and Samir Ghoshe's Palestine Popular Struggle Front, all of which support the peace deal with Israel.

PLO sources said they expected the authority to include 15 members from the occupied territories — nine from the West Bank and six from the Gaza Strip — and nine from the exiled Palestinian community.

Other sources say they will share the seats half-half.

At least four Executive Committee members are likely to be named to the authority: Mr. Ahd Rabbu, Mr. Ghoshe, Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi (independent, head of the economic department) and Yasser Amr.

The authority would include also at least one woman: Intisar Al Wazir, a Fateh Central Committee member and widow of assassinated Palestinian military chief Khalil Al Wazir Abu Jihad.

An adviser to Mr. Arafat said he expected the autonomy accord would pave the way for a Palestinian state even before the end of the five years allotted to self-rule.

"It will be a natural development of this agreement," the

(Continued on page 3)

## Morale high among policemen despite delay

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

SOUTH SHUNEH — The morale of 270 Palestinian fighters-turned policemen remained relatively high Sunday despite Israel's refusal to allow them entry to Jericho as the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had planned.

After waiting for more than five hours, the policemen were told by the Israeli authorities across the Jordan River that they would have to wait some more before assuming their responsibilities in the West Bank town of Jericho.

"We were told that the Israelis were not prepared for

us," said Brigadier Mohammad Qudsieh, who heads the 3,200-strong Jordan-based Bader Brigades of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA).

Brig. Qudsieh, who is leading the Palestinian police unit of the Bader Brigades into Jericho, told reporters that Israel was "using its usual delaying tactics," but he could not confirm when the police force would be allowed to go into the West Bank.

"But this delay will not affect the morale of our men," Brig. Qudsieh said. "Sooner or later we will get our rights."

The brigadier told journalists at the pilgrim station — a makeshift zinc-roofed camp where Palestinians stay when

crossing into Jordan on their way to pilgrimage in Mecca — that his men would camp out in that spot until they are permitted to go to Jericho through the King Hussein Bridge.

Brig. Qudsieh expected that a 522-strong unit from the Iraq-based Al Aqsa Brigades, which was on its way to the pilgrim station at press time, will join up with his forces before crossing the Jordan River.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an agreement for limited Palestinian autonomy in Jericho and the Gaza Strip last week in Cairo, allowing a 9,000-strong Palestinian police force to start deploy-

ment in the two areas as of May 8.

The police force is made up of PLO fighters in Jordan, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Algeria and Yemen, and most of them are loyal to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fateh faction.

A convoy of 23 military buses, trucks and jeeps drove into the pilgrim station as the khaki-clad men waved Palestinian flags and flashed the "V"-for-victory sign. They had carried their AK-47s in separate wooden boxes to be opened only after they crossed to the West Bank.

As they waited, many of the officers began taking off their red berets and wearing the new green ones with an

eagle and "police" written underneath it instead of the old "Palestine Liberation Army." Dozens of officers began sewing on their new "Palestine" and "National Security Forces" emblems on their sleeves.

"This is a typical case of Israeli manoeuvring," said Lieutenant-Colonel Atef Badwan of Israel's refusal to allow them in on Sunday. "But we have been waiting for decades to return to our homeland, and we can wait a little bit more."

All 270 men, most of whom are officers between 30 and 60 years old, did not know they would be chosen

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Eggplant	350/ 325
Garlic	220/ 180
Garlic	320/400
Green beans	350/ 250
Lemon	140/ 100
Marrow (small)	200/ 100
Marrow (large)	450/ 320
Mushrooms	270/ 280
Onion	400/ 260
Onion (green)	150/ 100
Onion	240/ 180
Peas	450/ 320
Pepper (hot)	400/ 220
Pepper (sweet)	400/ 220
Potato	380/ 220
Tomato	260/ 160
String beans	550/ 350
Watermelon	260/ 180



## Home News

## U.S. announces 1995 immigrant visa lottery

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. Government recently announced a visa lottery programme under which a specific number of permanent resident visas will be awarded in 1995 to eligible persons from areas of the world that have low immigration rates to the United States.

The visas awarded to winners in the draw will be apportioned among six geographic regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania and South America.

About 6,000 visas will be awarded to winning applicants from Asia, the geographic region that extends from Bilad Al-Sham to all North Pacific Islands, including Indonesia.

To participate in the lottery, applicants must have at least a high school education or its equivalent or two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation that requires at least two years of training or experience.

Application is free. There is no special form.

However, to qualify for participation in the random draw by computer, the detailed instructions given below must be followed accurately to the last detail.

The information required must be typed or clearly printed in English, on a sheet of plain paper which should

include: the applicant's full name (family name first, underlined); the date of birth (day, month, year) and the place of birth (city, country) for both the applicant and for the spouse or any unmarried children under 21 years of age who might also wish to immigrate; the applicant's full mailing address; the applicant's native country if it differs from the country of birth; and the applicant's telephone number in Jordan, if available.

The sheet of plain paper containing the above information must be put in a regular letter or business envelope which must be between 15 cm to 25 cm in length and between 9 cm to 11 cm in width.

The upper left hand corner of the front of the envelope must have the applicant's native country, followed on the next lines by the applicant's full name and full mailing address.

The envelope should be correctly addressed to the exact numerical postal ZIP code covering the region of the world of which the applicant is a native. It is important to use the correct postal "ZIP" code when you type or write the address of the region.

Applications should be mailed to:  
DV-1 Program  
National Visa Center  
Portsmouth, N.H. 02010  
USA

Applications must be received in the United States by regular airmail. Letters received by any other special or registered mail or delivery system such as express mail or messenger service will be discarded.

Letters must be received at the correct address in the U.S. between June 1 and June 30, 1994. Any letter received before or after this period will also be discarded.

**Machine-readable visas**

The U.S. Embassy in Amman also announced that it will begin issuing a new type of "machine-readable" visa as of Monday.

Previously issued visas which have not yet expired will continue to be valid and do not need to be replaced.

This is not a change in the standards of eligibility for U.S. visas which will remain the same.

The new machine-readable visas will incorporate a picture of each traveller.

A current photograph of each applicant, including children, will be required with all visa applications.

Applicants with family members listed in their passports should also be aware that each traveller will require a separate visa on a separate passport page.

Conflict resolution symposium begins  
Majali urges cooperation by government heads

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday urged heads of government departments and secretaries general of various ministries to work jointly for the common national interest and help their country cope with what he called "strategic developments" currently being witnessed by the Middle East region.

Jordan is facing immense challenges far greater than those encountered in the past, and it is incumbent on heads of government offices to transcend personal differences and work in unison for the common goal, said the prime minister in opening a five-day symposium entitled "Strategic Management and Conflict Resolution".

Organised by the Institute of Public Administration in cooperation with the U.S. Institution Search For Common Ground, the symposium is designed to enable the public administration institutions in Jordan to promote coordination and encourage creative elements to help development, according to the organisers.

The peace process is expected to bring about many changes and developments in the region which will eventually have a major impact on strategies, thinking methods of decision-making and institutional management, said the prime minister.

A Middle East peace with all that it entails in development



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday presides over the opening of a five-day meeting on "Strategic Management and Conflict Resolution" (Petra photo).

to discuss strategic issues related to institutional management, management of water resources and services, handling of the state's funds and information, the decentralisation programme as well as the impact of peace on Jordan and neighbouring states.

At the outset of the meeting held at the Royal Scientific Society, Zubeir Al Kayed, director general of the Institute of Public Administration, reviewed the general topics to be discussed by the participants over the coming five days, noting that social, economic, technological and political issues related to their offices will be reviewed and advanced means of overcoming problems would be discussed.

## Panel begins work on converting JEA into commercial entity

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A committee is preparing the groundwork to convert the status of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) from an autonomous authority to that of a commercial entity operating under the Companies Law, a senior JEA official said Sunday.

The proposed change of status comes in line with a recommendation by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which are supervising an economic restructuring programme aimed at optimum utilisation of resources and optimum accountability of state-owned entities.

The World Bank and the Japanese government are providing two loans of \$80 million

each to improve the Kingdom's energy sector and increase efficiency.

Walid Jaouni, deputy director-general of the JEA, said the committee, which includes representatives of concerned departments, started work following a decision by the Council of Ministers about a month ago to change the status of the authority, which is burdened with heavy debts.

"We will have a better picture of the situation in a few weeks time as the committee gets ahead in its work," Mr. Jaouni told the Jordan Times. In general, there will be a change in the methods of operations and administration, he said.

The change in status is expected to be completed before

the end of this year.

At present, JEA functions under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and, by virtue of its monopoly in the energy sector, is linked with many other ministries and government departments. The net government equity in the authority stood at JD79 million at the end of 1993.

Under the government decision, the authority will be transformed as a full commercial entity with operational independence, but there will not be any change of ownership since the government already owns the entity.

"The idea is to convert the company as a public shareholding company under the Companies Law," said a senior

official. "The marked difference the entity will have with other public shareholding companies is all its shares will be owned by the government."

This would mean, among other things, full accountability of power used by all government departments, which will have to set aside specific allocations for settling their dues to the new entity.

Under present arrangements, many government departments have little, if any, accounting for power consumption and entries in books are adjusted against dues from and payments to the JEA.

Demand for electricity in the Kingdom is estimated to have grown by an average of 7.5 per cent in 1993.

Like Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, which is on its way to eventual privatisation, the JEA is also ranked as a profit-generating entity, but debts are straining the company's resources and wiping out operational profits.

The JEA's total assets are estimated at JD339 million. The authority, which employs around 2,100 people, posted gross revenues of about JD110 million in 1993, of which JD108 million came from energy sales. It posted an operational profit in 1993, but the cost of debt servicing and a write-off against part of accumulated losses — estimated around JD28 million — deprived it of net profit. Final figures for the year have not been released yet.

## WHAT'S GOING ON FILMS

\* Film in Spanish entitled "Don Juan, Mi Querido Fantasma" at the Spanish Cultural Centre at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 613877).

\* Chilean film entitled "La Estación Del Regreso" (The Return Stop) at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (84 minute).

\* Film entitled "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

## BALLET

\* Ballet performance by Al-Ahliya School for Girls students at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.

## LECTURE

\* Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Political and Economic Aspects of Liberal Democracy" by Dr. Hazem Al Bilawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

## ARAB POETS GATHERING

\* Poetry recital by Arab poets at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 695291).

## EXHIBITIONS

\* Exhibition of Ikebana art of flower arranging at the Marriott Hotel.

\* Exhibition of water colour paintings by artist Itab Hrebi and another exhibition of ceramics by Sajida Elmeschickhi at Aln Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451, 652823).

\* Exhibition by artist Helmi El-Touni at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

\* Spring exhibition of "Artists Expressions in Wool" the Bani Hamida project of art works and rugs at the Jordan Contractors Association Building in Abdoun (Tel. 612169).

\* "Spring Exhibition" (quilts, cushions, lamp shades, etc.) at the Zawadeh villa, opposite the Contractor's Association in Abdoun (Tel. 656172).

\* Exhibition of silk paintings by artist Soaad Nemech Akrouk at the Royal Cultural Centre.

\* Exhibition of paintings by artists Walid Sheet and Nazem Hamed at Alla Art Gallery (Tel. 639303).

\* Art exhibition by Bashar Ibrahim at the Royal Cultural Centre.

\* Art exhibition by five Egyptian artists at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lwadeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

## Waldheims visit NHF, RSS

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting former Austrian president Kurt Waldheim and his wife Sunday visited the National Heritage Foundation (NHF) and met with its President Hani Al Mulki. Her Majesty Queen Noor's advisor on development, planning and international relations for the foundation and NHF staff. Dr. Waldheim was briefed on the foundation's projects in various parts of the Kingdom, and he expressed appreciation of NHF's endeavours. Ms. Mulki said that NHF was maintaining close cooperation with international organisations and U.N. agencies which continue to provide the foundation with technical and material assistance. Dr. Waldheim and his accompanying delegation also Sunday visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met its President Hani Al Mulki and his senior assistants.



The realism of Nazem Hamed

## Fervent followers of classical realism

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The land of Iraq, and Baghdad in particular, is known for having developed a level of excellence in the arts and culture rarely equalled by its Arab neighbours. It is probably fair to say that the technical level of mastery on paint and canvas displayed by the Iraqi painters Walid Sheet and Nazem Hamed in the Alla Art Gallery in Amman exemplifies such excellence.

"Technique itself is a big thing for me," says Mr. Sheet. "Sometimes you can have an excellent idea or concept for a painting — but if your technique is not top-notch, you will fail to communicate that idea to your viewer in its full strength."

The two artists, who are for the most part fervent followers of classical realism, said that they chose to exhibit their works together because they share a similar artistic style and focus.

If they could be criticised for one thing, it is that in their strict quest for classical and technical perfection, neither artist seems to have developed a particularly definite original imprint he could call his own.

"Mr. Hamed and myself both believe that realism is

the base," explained Mr. Sheet in defence. An artist who has mastered the realistic style and its demanding challenges, he said, will have acquired the capabilities to pursue any other style or concept which he wishes. "But on the other hand, you see many abstract artists who can do very good work — but they cannot do a realistic painting."

Their works in this exhibition are in the main, traditional, romantic Middle Eastern subjects — the desert, the streets of the old town quarters, bedouins and villagers of Iraq, and that most traditional and primeval of all Middle Eastern symbols — the horse.

"As a child," says Mr. Hamed, "I lived in the countryside, and my grandfather owned many horses, so I grew up with them," and ever since, he says, he has been moved by their inherent nobility, action and dynamism of shape and motion.

Above all other subjects which he paints, said Mr. Hamed, "it is the desert which particularly inspires me — it never fails to give me a feeling of freedom and strength."

The exhibition of the two artists' work, which opened on May 4, will continue through May 11.

## Pilgrims arrive in Medina

AMMAN (J.T.) — All Jordanian pilgrims heading for Mecca for this year's Haj have now arrived in Medina and are all reported in good health, according to Mohammad Khatib, head of the pilgrimage mission accompanying this year's groups from the Kingdom.

Mr. Khatib said some of the pilgrims, most of them elderly, have been visiting the medical clinic affiliated to the mission and were provided with the appropriate medical treatment by the physicians there.

According to Mahmoud Al Shahed, head of the medical team, there are no Jordanian pilgrims requiring hospitalisation, and if so, arrangements have been made to admit them to hospitals in Mecca or Medina.

Dr. Shahed is teamed with an integrated group of specialists and general practitioners and nurses accompanying the pilgrims to all the holy sites to be visited during the pilgrimage.

Mr. Khatib said that the

## PLO delays naming authority

(Continued from page 1)

adviser, Ahmad Tibi, told Israel army radio from Tunis.

Mr. Rabin is opposed to the creation of an independent Palestinian state. Mr. Rabin's Labour Party favours an eventual confederation between Jordan and the Palestinian entity.

"No refugee numbers"

Israel has not made any promises to the PLO on how many Palestinians displaced in the 1967 Middle East war will be allowed to return, an Israeli negotiator said Saturday.

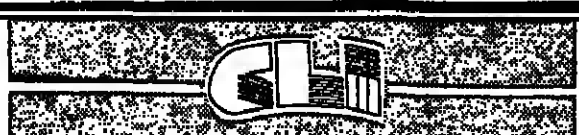
Negotiations on the return of refugees are to begin next month, and Israel's right-wing

opposition has voiced fears that the result will be a massive influx of Palestinians to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel negotiator Yoel Singer said the accord signed in Cairo calls for the establishment of a committee to deal with the 1967 refugees. Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan and Egypt will send representatives.

Asked whether Israel had committed itself to any numbers of eligible returnees, Mr. Singer told Israel Radio: "None whatsoever."

According to Israeli figures, some 200,000 Palestinians fled in the war, while the PLO says some 875,000 could be eligible to return.

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ANNOUNCES THE STARTING OF

\* Arabic courses for foreigners on 15/5/1994 to be held twice a week, Sunday and Tuesday from 4 - 6 p.m. for a period of a month and a half.

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Information & Registration at the Italian Language Centre, Shmeisani, near Birds' Garden.

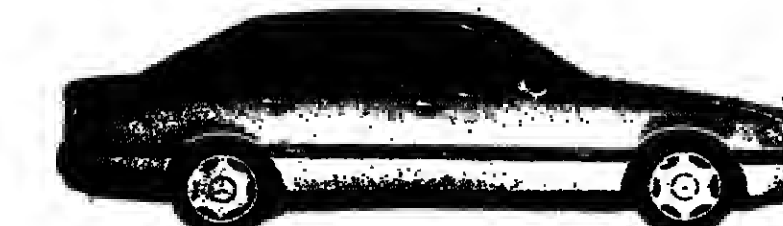
Tel : 669348

## الجمعية الاردنية للعلوم الطبية للفلسطينيين

## يانصيب



■ الجائزة الكبرى  
سيارة مرسيدس C 180  
مجموكة 1994  
■ جوائز أخرى  
سعر البطاقة خمسة دنانير  
Ticket JD 5  
■ السحب على الدواليب  
بتاريخ ١١/٥/٩٤ وستعلن  
النتائج في الصحف المحلية



TWO DAYS  
BEFORE THE DRAWING OF LOTS  
to take place in camera by Jordan Television and the results will be published in the local press

بالتعاون مع  
مجموعة شاميه للإعمال والاستثمار  
للاستفسار هاتف ٦١١٠٦٥

## اماكن بيع التذاكر

عمان:  
(١) سيدوي  
(٢) سوق الويتو - لدوار الاول  
(٣) سويت سويز ماركيت - لدوار الخامس  
(٤) مبنى ماركيت اسامه ناصر الدين - تلح لعل  
(٥) صيدلية الخولي - لدوار السادس  
(٦) صيدلية روهي - جبل عمان  
(٧) صيدلية رولاند - وادي صقره  
(٨) صيدلية فراس - جبل الحسين  
(٩) صيدلية دوار للدخلية - جبل الحسين  
(١٠) صيدلية مخيم الحسين - جبل الحسين  
(١١) صيدلية ملاك - الوحدات  
(١٢) صيدلية لوحات - شارع القادي - الوحدات  
(١٣) صيدلية بسمه - شارع الجاردين  
(١٤) صيدلية سفا - شارع الجاردين  
(١٥) صيدلية لم انية - لم انية  
(١٦) صيدلية جمال - الجيبية  
(١٧) صيدلية العبدلي - العبدلي  
(١٨) صيدلية لشقشان - للدية الرياضية  
(١٩) صيدلية العربية الكبرى - شارع الملك فيصل  
(٢٠) صيدلية رجاء - الشميساني  
(٢١) صيدلية سنويز - خلف مجمع النقابات  
(٢٢) صيدلية ركن للدواء - ضاحية الربوية  
(٢٣) مكتبة المكتبة - شارع الجاردين  
(٢٤) مكتبة فراس - لدوار الثلث  
(٢٥) مكتبة الجامعة - شارع الجاردين  
(٢٦) مكتبة الجامعة - جبل اللويدية  
(٢٧) مطعم روميزو - جبل عمان



## Jordan Times

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## Atmosphere for results

THE HITHERTO long-awaited 11th session of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee ended Friday on a "happy note" when Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and his Egyptian counterpart Ataf Sedki signed the minutes of the two-day meetings.

The agenda of the meeting covered a wide range of topics that included, inter alia, the "endorsement" of the Cairo PLO-Israeli accord on limited self-rule in Gaza and Jericho after describing the ceremony as a step in the direction of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the area. This much was expected of the two sides since Cairo has not only hosted the signing of the PLO-Israeli agreement but, to a considerable extent, brokered it as well.

Jordan's decision to attend the signing ceremony signified its "acceptance" of the deal even though we were not highly impressed by its terms, to say the least.

But where the meeting between the two prime ministers seems to break new ground is over the extent of cooperation in the economic, transport, education, energy and tourism fields.

Take for example the agreement to create a task force to draw up a joint mechanism to deal with, and presumably agree on, regional and international economic concerns. This is indeed a real challenge and judging by the tone of the agreement on it, Amman and Cairo have only committed themselves to develop a futuristic approach to it. The same treatment was accorded to the future course of the Egyptian-Jordanian Company for Investment and Development. As for the 1992 commercial protocol, the two parties again agreed to pursue its goal without indicating how exactly. Even when it came to the list of items that would be exempted from customs, both prime ministers merely agreed that a joint trade committee would meet in two months' time to put the final touches on such a list.

More or less, the same rhetoric characterised the agreements on the other subjects be they on industrial integration, energy sharing and development, agriculture cooperation, the Arab Maritime Bridge Company, exchange of students at the university level or tourism. Perhaps it was too much to expect the two prime ministers to come up with more concrete agreements since the detailed and technical work necessary for any such pacts would need much more than two working days.

What is possible to achieve, and quickly, however, is a new Egyptian initiative towards facilitating travel by Jordanians into Egypt, whether for tourism, study or business. Many Jordanians have been and still are treated in the most unfriendly ways by Egyptian authorities at entry points to that country, according to eyewitness and press reports heard and published here. This type of treatment does not reciprocate that received by tens of thousands of Egyptians at border points in this country. We therefore urge our brothers in Egypt to rectify this injustice promptly and, in the future, not to let political disputes have their toll on ordinary citizens from either country.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Sunday criticised the Arab League for failing to take firm steps to deal with the Yemeni civil war in which it has caused wide scale destruction and immense loss of life. The Arab League should have taken practical and immediate steps to end the fighting and convene a meeting between the leaders of the north and south Yemen to discuss the situation, said the daily. Jordan played an active role alone at the start of the dispute between the Yemeni leaders and tried hard and sometimes unsuccessfully to put an end to differences in views, said the daily. It said that Jordan's efforts should have been followed up by the Arab League which is largely responsible for maintaining brotherly ties among Arab states and for keeping the peace in the Arab World. It is saddening to see the Yemeni leaders' differences going out of control and exploding into a war which can only destroy Yemen and the Yemeni people, said the daily. It expressed hope that these leaders would soon resort to reason and accept mediation of honest Arabs to find a lasting solution to their problem.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday criticised the trade protocol signed by Jordan and Egypt Friday as limiting the scope of trade between the two countries. Tareq Masarweh said that two neighbouring and sister states should have open borders and free trade similar to trade either country conducts with other nations of the world. The writer said that regardless of the nice words used by the two sides at their meetings and the press conference summing up the deliberations of the Higher Joint Committee, Jordanian nationals continue to receive mistreatment by the Egyptian authorities at airports and Nuweibeh in Sinai during their travel to and from Egypt, he pointed out.

By Valerie Yorke

THE KILLING by a fanatical Jewish settler of 29 Palestinians at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron in February led to the suspension of negotiations by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and gravely complicated the already troubled Middle East peace process. The Hebron massacre, followed by the killing of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers in the ensuing confusion and then the hardships of curfew and the closure of the occupied territories, further undermined the dwindling credibility of the PLO leadership and increased the sense of disillusion among Palestinians with a peace process which had brought no tangible gain and threatened to increase the dangers to them. The view was widespread that the peace process had been derailed.

However, the Hebron tragedy may also have had an unintended, positive affect in the sense that it has forced the intractable issue of Jewish settlements onto the Israeli-Palestinian and international agendas and provided a timely reminder that dangerous fanaticism is to be found among Israelis as well as the Palestinians. The international community has been compelled to act to get the PLO back to negotiations and is committed to help provide security guarantees for the Palestinians under occupation.

In the process, it is having to confront the difficulty of sustaining momentum behind a process based on an accord which, both in its political and its economic aspects, reflects the asymmetries between the militarily powerful Israel and the Palestinians and is skewed in favour of the stronger party. As Israel, with the help of the U.S. administration, sought to entice the PLO back to the talks, the requirement was for a formula which did not further weaken the position of the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, in the occupied territories, but which permitted Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to argue that the Declaration of Principles (DoP) adopted at the start of the present round of negotiations remains intact.

Against the backdrop of the resulting Hebron agreement providing for an international observer force in the city, and then the revenge killing of 15 Israelis by extremist Palestinians in Ashdod, Afula and Hadera, escalating in violence on both sides, and the indefinite closure of the West Bank and Gaza, can fresh momentum be injected into the peace talks? Can the peace process currently under way satisfy Israeli and Palestinian minimum demands and lead to an overall settlement?

### From Madrid to Oslo

The convening of the Madrid peace conference in October 1991 represented a breakthrough in a long history of effort to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and as such constituted a significant achievement for the U.S. administration. It established the principle of direct negotiations and was the first time that all the Arab parties (including the Palestinians) sat round the negotiating table. The 22 months of talks that followed also produced achievements which were neither foreseeable nor guaranteed and still remain barely acknowledged. The Palestinians won tacit American and Israeli acceptance of the PLO as their decision-making authority and Israel's formal acquiescence in the participation of diaspora Palestinians in the multilateral talks. The parties became acquainted with each other's perceptions, sensitivities, goals and "bottom-lines". For Israel, progress on the multilateral track exceeded wildest expectations. Indeed, the Madrid process, both in bilateral and in multilateral forums, helped to create the environment which gave birth to the Oslo channel and contributed to the framework for the international aid effort to the Palestinians — now viewed as vital for continued momentum.

Yet despite the hopes generated by the ceremony of Madrid and the election of a Labour-led government in Israel in 1992, the talks had ground to a halt by summer 1993 after 11 rounds. There were serious flaws in the process. The Madrid terms of reference reflected Israeli conditions for negotiations and amounted to humiliating concessions by the Palestinians, who were weak in the aftermath of Iraq's defeat and the collapse of the Soviet Union. The formal goal of the process was a comprehensive peace, but the terms of reference

made no link between the separate bilateral tracks, thereby enabling Israel potentially to play one Arab party against another; the different timing of the Palestinian-Israeli talks — Israel and the Palestinians were to negotiate a transitional phase without knowing the destination of the process while Jordan, Syria and Lebanon were to conclude a final settlement with Israel as quickly as possible — further undermined the principle of comprehensiveness. Despite its commitment in its letter of assurance to the Palestinians to act as an honest broker, the Bush administration showed little inclination to help the parties to agree. The ultimate authority of the PLO, which was barred from direct participation, detracted from the legitimacy of the Palestinian negotiators who could not make concessions. These short-comings produced stalemate at the Washington talks and convinced Israeli and PLO leaders — when they were both ready for serious negotiations in spring 1993 — to use the separate channel already secretly established in Norway for direct talks between the PLO and Israel.

### The Oslo breakthrough

Following eight months of secret, parallel talks in Oslo and elsewhere, Israel and the PLO unexpectedly reached agreement in August on limited Palestinian self-government in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho. The signing of the Declaration of Principles in Washington on Sept. 13, 1993 was preceded by mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel — a monumental breakthrough in Israel's relations with the Palestinians and in Middle East politics. In recognising the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians, Yitzhak Rabin's government not only recognised the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories as a national grouping with a right to leadership, but also that the struggle between the Palestinians and Israel over the same land lies at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The historic handshake between sworn enemies carried an emotional appeal that breathed new life into the stalled peace talks. The key to the Oslo formula's success was the parties' understanding that they would have to create their own dynamic — the stalemate Washington talks had demonstrated that negotiations do not necessarily take on a momentum of their own. The PLO and Israel recognised that a fresh step was required on their part — reciprocal, deliberate and public — towards reconciliation representing a commitment both by Palestinian and by Israeli leaderships to peace. But there were other factors that contributed to the deal's timing:

— The Washington talks, where the participants were inserting demands that prodded the Oslo negotiators into finding an alternative formula;

— The replacement in Israel in 1992 of Yitzhak Shamir's government with its ideological commitment to the land of Israel by a Labour-led government, whose leaders were committed to accelerating the peace process;

— The weakening position of the PLO which faced financial collapse and international marginalisation as a result of Arafat's support for Saddam Hussein;

— And the diplomatic skills of the Norwegian team.

While mutual recognition marked a historic turning-point in their relations, the Israeli and PLO leaderships had, in effect, embarked on a political gamble. The process they started in signing the DoP was based on a shared vision of hope for the future which had to be transferred to their own publics and to Arab neighbours — both leaders and people — and to gain their support if the process was to continue.

The declaration aims to establish a Palestinian interim self-government authority, the elected council, for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for a transitional period not exceeding five years leading to a permanent settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Thus the agreement, widely praised as the best that could be achieved at the time, is not a peace accord but a declaration of principles, providing a framework for further negotiated agreements and a tight timetable for implementation. The scope of the principles, both ambiguous and limited enough to permit the parties to agree to them, inevitably contained the seeds of future difficulties.

The declaration only concurred interim self-government — a first phase in a two-phase settlement — and as such leaves the most controversial questions of the Jewish settlements, refugees, Jerusalem and the final status of the occupied territories to be negotiated in the 1996-99 period. And while the text mentions U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, no interpretation is offered, thereby allowing each party to continue to interpret those resolutions differently. These ambiguities have created strong opposition among Israeli right-wingers who see the accord as a self-out because its logical conclusion, they believe, will be a Palestinian state; and — quite apart from Hamas and the Palestinian rejectionists in Damascus who oppose the whole Madrid process — a growing number of Arafat loyalists also criticise it because it does not include an Israeli renunciation to its claim to the occupied territories and has provided Israel with time to consolidate the settlements. In short, the Palestinians fear that the DoP's implementation will diminish chances of gaining control over their land.

The implementation of the DoP is therefore the test.

Both sides know that putting flesh on the bones of the outline agreement will influence the shape of the permanent settlement. The PLO wants to ensure that no step is taken that forecloses its goals of an independent state. It wants to secure symbols and some elements of sovereignty which might make this outcome more likely, and in the present provide hope to Palestinians of a better future, thereby shoring up their support. Israel insists that its security needs are met, while seeking to ensure that a future Palestinian entity is joined in confederation with Jordan. The PLO wants to break out of the mould of two phases and introduce an element of final status negotiation, but Israel insists on phasing, as a form of trial, before moving on. Thus the peace talks have become a contest.

The conundrum is this. PLO and Israeli leaders both want momentum towards peace to

Yitzhak Rabin walked with President Bill Clinton across the White House lawn to make their symbolic handshake, the impression conveyed was one of adversary partners invested in a process of reconciliation. Mutual recognition signalled reciprocity. For a brief moment the international community was reminded that for all Israel's military strength, it has only won battles and not the war; that the Arab parties remain undefeated, with unresolved grievances; and that as a result of the intifada Israel had recognised that the political question of the Palestinians was not amenable to a military solution. Peace would have to be negotiated.

On this analysis, neither the Madrid peace talks nor the talks stemming from Oslo constitute a normal peace conference where the winners invite the losers to discuss settlement terms. Instead, a resolution of the differences of the undefeated parties is expected to involve concessions by both sides. However, in its talks with the Palestinians Israel holds all the cards. It has the advantage of being a state and a formidable military power — backed by the United States — whose leadership can turn to democratic institutions through which to conduct a dialogue with the body politic. It controls Palestinian territory and the daily lives of its inhabitants. Yasser Arafat's starting point is much weaker. The PLO is a liberation movement — with no military clout and economically bankrupt — trying to achieve statehood, its leadership is still based outside the territories of a future Palestinian entity, while the people it represents are partly inside and partly scattered in the diaspora. As the Madrid terms of reference, the DoP and its economic protocols and the February Cairo accord make clear, negotiations within the context of this asymmetrical relationship have served to strengthen Israel and to put the PLO at a clear disadvantage.

The fact is that, although Prime Minister Rabin's Labour Party has made the unthinkable decision to negotiate peace on the basis of territorial

said that the test of the accord will be the Palestinians' ability to implement it on the ground — to cater to the public's needs, to provide governance, assure national unity and provide economic opportunities and social justice. But many Palestinians would argue that the PLO is failing to effect the transition as depicted by Dr. Shaath, and that the fault lies with Mr. Arafat. The scale and public manifestations of the criticism have caused growing concern.

The protest has its roots in the way the PLO chairman pushed the accord through PLO institutions, and a general concern that the implementation of self-rule as provided for in the DoP is laying the ground for a new system of Israeli control rather than for Palestinian independence — unless the PLO can gain more areas of control than originally set out for it (which it did not). Doubts as to Arafat's ability to achieve this, underscored by the conclusion of the February Cairo accord — regarded by most Palestinians as representing a capitulation to Israeli terms — have widened opposition against him, even among those who originally supported the DoP. The dissidents want to see better planning for the talks and the involvement of all Palestinians in the building of the Palestinian national authority.

Dissent over Mr. Arafat's anticorruption leadership is not new, but the public form it has recently taken is unprecedented. The Chairman's critics sense that he is incapable of discarding the mentality of a revolutionary leader in favour of the pragmatic governance required to build a state, and that his failure to adapt could cost the Palestinians this historic opportunity. Mr. Arafat's apparent determination to hold on to the reins of power, his reluctance to delegate authority to newly established institutions, such as the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), his use of the power of appointment to coopt factions through patronage and his habit of playing senior PLO officials off against each other are all cited as undermining national unity and damaging to the task of state-building.

The growing dissent is reflected in the power-struggle under way within Fatah, between Fatah and other political groups, and between PLO leaders in Tunis and those in the occupied territories. The political manoeuvring and rivalries are all symptomatic of the changing nature of Palestinian politics since Oslo and reflect the political ambitions of members of the Palestinian political class as they seek to adapt.

As a result of this severe friction in the Palestinian body politic, many Palestinians agree that the unintended consequence of the Oslo accord and the internal debate it has triggered may be to undermine the Palestinians' ability and commitment to achieve an independent state. Two schools of thought have emerged on how to avoid such an outcome. The first, to which Yasser Arafat undoubtedly belongs, argues that institution-building in the occupied territories — to enable the Palestinians to maintain public order when the Israeli army withdraws, to assume the functions of the civil administration, and to administer and deliver the benefits of the reconstruction programme — should take priority over organisational reforms. These measures, these school argues, will lay the embryonic structures of a state and are crucial if the Palestinians are to experience an alleviation of the repression of the occupation and an improved standard of living. It is also the case that they will be important to the PLO's ability to handle the transition and will shape Israel's perception of the risks involved in continuing the process. A second school argues that, in the absence of internal reform, the PLO will be unable to develop a coherent negotiating strategy and as a result of their weakness will be pressed into making more concessions to Israel, thereby sacrificing all hope of winning a state.

The Hebron massacre has severely aggravated all aspects of the PLO's internal crisis, heightened the risks to Mr. Arafat (who is now widely regarded to have lost touch with his people and thus his legitimacy) and complicated his options in the peace process.

### The Israeli dilemma

The assumption of power by Yitzhak Rabin's government in June 1992 marked a turning in Israel's politics away from the ideological commitment of the

Likud government towards the land of Israel to the pragmatic policies of Labour favouring territorial compromise. This transformation of power reflected a shift in balance between the two Zionisms, the assertive revisionist and the progressive liberal — into which Israel's politics is broadly divided, as Israelis come to terms with the implications of the end of the cold war and the second Gulf war. Meanwhile, the debate triggered by the Palestinian intifada over what kind of Israel its people wanted had turned in favour of the vision that Mr. Rabin's party stood for — the return of most of the occupied territories in exchange for peace.

Direct talks with the PLO and the resulting Oslo accord represented pragmatic steps in the pursuit of this vision and reflected Mr. Rabin's recognition that the Palestinian issue was not amenable to a military solution. They did not, however, reveal his ultimate intentions or preferred option for the West Bank and Gaza; since negotiations on permanent status are postponed until the second phase, and Israel's goal is left undefined. The fact is that Mr. Rabin has embarked on talks with the PLO because he was convinced by military advisers that this was in Israel's security interest while it was clear that the diplomatic and economic benefits would be considerable. None the less, security considerations continue to circumscribe his room for manoeuvre.

As a result of his long military and diplomatic career, Mr. Rabin, like many of his generation, views the Arabs in terms of the military threat they represent. This outlook, combined with close ties with the Gush Emunim settler movement which enjoys widespread support among secular Zionists, who attach importance to security, explains his pragmatic caution and deep reluctance to make an unequivocal step to relinquish land. Most crucially, the fact that Israel's territorial boundaries were never decided in 1948 and that there is still no consensus on what its territorial identity should be means that the consequences of Mr. Rabin's government attempting to move ahead of public opinion on the settlements issue would be highly divisive.

For Israel, the handshake on the White House lawn amounted to recognition that Israel and the Palestinians were destined to live on the same land and that there was no viable alternative to ending the occupation if Israel was to endure as a democratic Jewish state. However, Israel's negotiating stance reflects more than an alleged domestic requirement for strict phasing to test Palestinian intentions. The lack of an Israeli consensus over how much land to give back, and under what terms, makes it imperative to leave to later the controversial issues of Jewish settlements and borders, the resolution of which would necessitate a clarification of Israel's territorial boundaries. So divided is Israel on this issue — both for security and ideological reasons — that any leader is likely to postpone indefinitely any definition which could precipitate a traumatic period in Israeli history.

After Hebron, Mr. Rabin's dilemma is more acute, partly because the domestic public mood against settlers is becoming more hardline while the settlers themselves are staking out their own position. Mr. Rabin still feels that he only has fragile hold on his constituency and that he therefore cannot afford to allow the DoP to be tampered with lest this signal to Israelis that the issue of settlements and thus final borders is now on the negotiating table. From the start, Israel's alleged requirement for phased implementation of self-rule ran counter to Mr. Arafat's need to secure tangible benefits for Palestinians under occupation and for an acceleration towards final status negotiations. Thus, in response to Hebron, Mr. Rabin called for an acceleration of negotiations on the Gaza-Jericho withdrawal agreement, but his continuing sense of constraint would still appear to rule out any response to the Palestinians' declared need to renegotiate the basis of the DoP or even a substantive gesture such as a commitment to move early on the most provocative of Jewish settlements out of Arab towns — that might strengthen Mr. Arafat and help him out of his corner.

The above is the first of a two-part article which is reprinted from the May edition of The World Today. The article was written before the signing of the self-rule agreement in Cairo Wednesday.

After Hebron, Mr. Rabin's dilemma is more acute, partly because the domestic public mood against settlers is becoming more hardline while the settlers themselves are staking out their own position.

be maintained but know tangible benefits must be won for their constituencies if they are to maintain support. However, both are aware that their scope for manoeuvre in making the compromises necessary to reassure each other and maintain momentum is circumscribed by the need to maintain credibility with their supporters and to minimise opposition to the process.

The expectation that the negotiations would involve hard bargaining and brinkmanship over continuing irreconcilable demands meant that the difficulties encountered from the outset of the Tabat talks last October came as no surprise. Divergent views on who would maintain control of international border crossings into the autonomous Palestinian areas, the security to be provided for Jewish settlers, the size of Jericho, and the timing of the release of political prisoners emanated in part from the ambiguities in, and omissions from, the DoP, but also from negotiating tactics. The talks assumed a pattern — chequered by mini-crises as each side jockeyed for position. The flagging process was sustained when Yasser Arafat acquiesced in most of Israel's demands on security issues in a partial agreement reached in Cairo in February, thereby paving the way for final details to be worked out on Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Those details were worked out in Cairo before the signing of the self-rule accord last Wednesday.

In the wake of the Hebron massacre, the PLO had no choice but to suspend the talks. After five months of negotiations, the process had failed to produce tangible results; it was increasingly vulnerable to critics and had been described by Arafat himself as losing credibility. The effect of the massacre and its aftermath has been to underscore the structural problems inherent in the process and the need for these to be addressed if negotiations are to result in the conclusion of stable agreements.

### The problem of asymmetry

When Yasser Arafat and

compromise, the Israeli government has made no such commitment, and if left to itself is under no pressure to make concessions that would come near to the minimum requirements of the Palestinians. This leaves Yasser Arafat with the unpalatable choice of either agreeing to Israeli terms; or engaging in protracted talks to wrest mainly symbolic gestures, which was the position until the Hebron Mosque massacre; or rejecting Israeli positions and postponing the negotiations until Israel unilaterally makes more substantial concessions — the tactic adopted after Hebron to try and gain protection for the Palestinians in line with U.N. Security Council Resolution 904.

### The challenge for the Palestinians

This leads to the related problem of the weakness of the PLO and Israeli leaderships. Common to both Palestinian and Israeli negotiators is the tension between the competing needs to reassure each other of their commitment to the process and to maintain the support of their own domestic constituents. In theory Israel, as the stronger party, has more scope for manoeuvre in forging the balance. In practice, however, the Palestinians have little to give, while Israel is also reluctant to concede more than the mutual recognition agreed. With both leaderships anxious to maintain momentum behind the process in which they have so great a stake, Israel has been adept at talking tough and getting its way. The result has been to diminish support for the peace process in the occupied territories as well as the PLO's standing there at a time when the prospect of a political transition has exacerbated long-standing criticism of Mr. Arafat's leadership, generated fierce debate within the Palestinian body politic on the form of governance in a Palestinian entity, and unleashed a power struggle within the Palestinian movement.

Acknowledging that the implementation of the DoP represents a special challenge for the Palestinians, Nabil Shaath, a leading PLO negotiator, has



## Palestinians disappointed

(Continued from page 1)

Crossing into the West Bank from the King Hussein Bridge, "There is no Palestinian police force," said Mr. Sheriff, evidently disappointed.

Indeed for most of the 270 PNSF members stuck at the Madinat Al Hujaj between the Jordanian bus station and the King Hussein Bridge, their inability to cross the bridge seemed a "crucial joke," as one PNSF veteran of the 1982 Lebanon war called it.

"It may be just as well because we don't even have our uniforms yet," said Colonel Mahmoud Gharbawi, one of the three high-ranking

PNSF officers expected to lead the 270-man unit from Jordan into Jericho.

Speaking to journalists at the Madinat Al Hujaj, Col. Sharbawi was confident that "details may delay but will not stop the process of the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho first accord."

Bright green berets with the PNSF emblem and Palestinian flags were the first parts of the new Palestinian police uniform to arrive.

As they awaited word on the timing of their departure to Jericho, the PNSF men exchanged their wine-red Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) berets for the new PNSF green ones.

The PLA emblem, which had been removed Friday, were replaced Sunday morning, as PNSF members sat under sunshades less than a kilometre away from the King Hussein Bridge.

But some PNSF members were irked by the absence of uniforms and even more by the unwillingness of the Israeli government to allow wooden and metal cartons filled with PNSF firearms to enter with the unit.

"We are not going in with Kalashnikovs on our shoulders. But they should at least let in our trucks," said one PNSF officer.

As the PNSF members settled down for the day, Palestinians on the other side of the Jordan River anxiously awaited their arrival hoping that the forces of self-rule would be the beginning of the end of their suffering under Israeli occupation.

Units of the Jericho boy scouts, waving Palestinian flags, vowed to stay put in front of the city council building until "the Palestine Liberation Army comes marching into Jericho."

Scores of Palestinian women, clad in traditional embroidered dresses, were ordered out of the area around the border crossing by Israeli soldiers.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian police officers empowered to administer the Palestinian transition to self-

rule in the Strip called a press conference only to announce that they had "no comment" on when the Palestinian police headed for Gaza would arrive.

Asked whether the "crisis" holding up the entry of the PNSF units was still ongoing, Ziad Al Atrash, head of the Fatah security forces, said, "It's a crisis."

As the sun went down in Gaza, Palestinians hoped Monday would usher in the entry of the long-awaited forces.

Reuter Adds: The first legal shipment of Palestinian arms in Israel's 27-year-old occupation crossed into the Gaza Strip on Sunday but the policemen who are meant to use them stayed behind in Egypt.

Palestinian and Israeli officials blamed each other for the delay. Instead of a triumphal entry of men only a truckload of weapons entered the occupied territories.

Uniformed policemen unloaded guns and crates of ammunition from an Egyptian truck onto an Israeli truck inside the Rafah border terminal linking Egypt and Gaza. Israel will inspect the guns before they are moved into the Gaza Strip.

Hundreds of police, whom Palestinians see as the embodiment of a coming Palestinian state, remained bivouacked in a military camp in the sleepy Egyptian town of Rafah while about 1,000 Gazans gathered on the other side to greet them.

Reasons given by Israeli, Palestinian and Egyptian security officers on Sunday for the delayed arrival varied from lack of PLO preparedness and consultations with Israel, to lack of funds provided by donor countries to an erupting civil war in Yemen.

But whatever and whoever is holding it up, the delayed deployment is beginning to give Palestinians the same sinking feeling about the implementation of self-rule as the tortuous eight-month negotiations which led up to it.

## Morale high among policemen

(Continued from page 1)

among those to return to part of their homeland until Friday night, Col. Badwan told the Jordan Times under the blazing Jordan Valley sun.

"I left my homeland on this very bridge in 1967, have fought ever since to return, and now I am returning in peace," the officer said excitedly.

Col. Badwan, like many of his comrades in arms, have fought and won against Israel in the Jordan Valley town of Karameh in 1967, fought against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and trained to fight in different Arab countries. He said he was glad to finally go home.

The officer, from the West Bank town of Beitin near Ramallah, left his wife and five children behind on the East Bank, but who will later follow him in Jericho, "because the homeland is more important to me than the immediate family."

Brig. Qudsi, who comes from a village near Haifa, described his feeling of returning to his homeland "like rain finally falling on land which suffered drought for seven years." Asked how he felt about serving in Jericho, he said: "It is part of my country."

The mission of the Palestinian police in Jericho, he said, was "to protect the security of our people and all those who fall under our jurisdiction," and insisted that no clashes would occur between the Palestinians and

their police.

"We Palestinians are civilised and educated and understand the realities," the brigadier said. "Having opposition is part of the democratic nature of the Palestinian system."

Col. Badwan said the Palestinian police would not shoot at Palestinian stone-throwers. "Don't ever believe that someone who fought against the enemy for so long would ever have to point the gun at his own people," he said.

"We were trained on a humanitarian basis, and we will prevent any crime from being committed, even if it is a Palestinian attacking an Israeli," Capt. Khader Alawneh, 34, told the Jordan Times.

He doubted that the Palestinian youth in the West Bank, who have been hurling stones at Israeli occupation soldiers since the intifada began in late 1987, would do the same to the Palestinian police.

"We are still very tribal in our thinking, and the Palestinians are in effect one family. So I doubt there will be any antagonism between us," the captain said.

Capt. Alawneh, whose family comes from Jerusalem but will see his homeland for the first time in his life, explained the general mood of the returning Palestinians in uniform.

"Our return to the homeland is very emotional," he said, "because our dream of return is finally becoming a reality."

## Human Rights File

### Don't hang the smugglers

By Waleed Sadi

RECENTLY, Egypt hanged 10 convicted drug smugglers after they were on the death row since 1989. Other countries are treating drug smugglers similarly, notably Iran, some Arab Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia and a few countries in the Far East, such as Malaysia. The primary issue here is whether drug smuggling per se is so serious a crime as to warrant the death penalty.

At the outset, it would be relatively easy to concede that drug related crimes are terribly serious and have contributed to the breakdown of one society after the other, not to mention the breakdown of family life. I think there is a wide support to this proposition worldwide. The disagreement lies elsewhere and it centres on the whether the capital punishment is justifiable even when the crime is confined to smuggling of heroine or crack or cocaine.

Granted, such drugs are addictive. Trade in these highly toxic products, including their smuggling across the borders of nations, deserve

the concerted efforts of all peoples and states on a global basis because they constitute a curse of the most heinous proportions.

What concerns me, however, is whether the death penalty is the effective answer to this international disorder after having demonstrated time and again that it has failed as a deterrent. It would seem that drug smuggling per se is both a social and economic problem on the top of being a political crisis in more countries than one cares to count. Many youth at tender age, albeit they attained the legal age of majority, have proved to be easy prey to the network of drug lords and end up themselves becoming the victims as well as culprits, all at the same time. The real wrongdoers stay outside the lime-light and escape scot free from apprehension and prosecution.

We all remember the case of the two British boys, caught smuggling drugs to Malaysia a few years ago, who ended up paying with their lives for their action. It is safe to say that the international community was split on

their case after showing sympathy and understanding to both the Malaysian cause that aimed to root out drugs from its society as well as to the two boys who were obviously victims of a greater and wider conspiracy orchestrated by real international criminals. The case of the British boys was a clear example of a Machiavellian policy that preaches that the end justifies the means.

Not that adults, even at a very tender age, should escape punishment for accepting to be instruments in the transfer of dangerously addictive substances across international frontiers. Rather, it is a call for an enlightened approach to this dimension of the problem by apportioning guilt and responsibility in a human and equitable manner, commensurate with the size of criminal responsibility. I hate to believe that "exploited" people should receive the death penalty for the purpose of driving home a message that drug trade will never be tolerated. There is a strong case in favour of "plea bargaining" in such situations, under which carriers and us-

ers of drugs would get lighter punishment excluding the death penalty in return for their cooperation to identify and apprehend the real sources of the problem.

It would seem to me that the answer to drug smuggling and related crimes calls for short term stiff punitive measures, excluding the capital punishment and long term comprehensive approach that takes into consideration the proposition that the apparent culprits are often more victims than criminals. It must be borne in mind at all times that carriers and consumers of the poisons that we call drugs are by and large the passive participants in the triangle that make the trade and consumption in them viable. Such carriers and users are the most exploited ones in the game of drugs and end up paying the biggest price. No doubt such people must be deterred from facilitating the spread of drugs nationally and internationally by carrying out severe punishments against them. But to apply the death penalty against them appears to be unjustifiable on moral and legal grounds.

## Battle for Aden under way

(Continued from page 1)

The International Committee of the Red Cross based in Kuwait appealed Sunday for emergency medical aid to treat the wounded, saying some five tonnes was needed.

Hundreds of foreigners were meanwhile fleeing the country aboard emergency air and sea rescue operations.

Planes were flying out of Sanaa, while French warships were waiting off the coast of Aden.

The United Nations also flew out about 140 personnel and their families from Sanaa to safety in Amman.

A northern military spokesman said the south, desperate to save Aden, fired more than

five Scud missiles at "vital and strategic targets" in Sanaa on Saturday night, but without causing damage.

The two sides each have 30,000-strong armies, which have not been merged despite unification. The south is counting on its larger air force, as well as Scud missiles, to hold off the north.

In Riyadh, the six neighbouring states of the Gulf Cooperation Council appealed Sunday for Yemeni leaders to halt the war.

Officials said the conflict had been added to the agenda of a meeting of foreign ministers from the European Union (EU) and its main oil supplier,

the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal, the current GCC chairman, told the meeting that the Yemeni war was a source of "grave concern" to Gulf states.

"We in the Arabian Peninsula have been shocked by the tragic armed confrontation in Yemen despite all efforts of mediation and good offices to resolve the differences among the Yemeni factions on the basis of dialogue and mutual understanding," he said.

President Saleh has accused his southern rivals of stealing \$375 million in oil revenues, SABA said.

Mr. Saleh on Saturday told Parliament that southern leaders, and mainly former Oil Minister Saleh Abu Bakr Ben

Hussainun, had plundered public funds and been involved in financial and administrative corruption.

They stole \$375 million in revenues from the southern Masila oil field "and deposited them in private accounts of their own," he charged.

Mr. Saleh's presidential council sacked Mr. Ben Hussainun on Thursday, a few hours after the outbreak of the civil war.

Soon after the north-south political crisis erupted last August, northern officials accused Mr. Beidh and his aides of using the southern oil field revenues for buying weapons.

Yemen's total oil output is nearly 320,000 barrels per day, including 170,000 from the Masila field.

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# Yemen war yet to bite into its small oil output

DUBAI (R) — Yemen's bitter civil war appears to have had little effect so far on the country's oil output, but even if it did, foreign customers could easily find new supplies, oil industry sources said Sunday.

Yemen's production of around 340,000 b/d of crude oil is small by world standards but it is a vital source of income for the impoverished, mainly agricultural country riven by a civil war between northern and southern forces.

"Some oil companies are still taking (Yemen's) Marib field and Masila crudes, but they could replace them easily," one oil trader based in the region said.

"It would be stupid for either side to attack oil facilities. If they do, it means they are not thinking about what will happen after the war," he added.

Qatar Oil Minister Abdullah Al Attiyah, in Cairo for a conference on Arab energy cooperation, said: "What we are worried about is not how this will affect oil. We are worried about the people in Yemen."

Other Arab oil officials attending the meeting said that even if Yemeni oil exports were cut off, they were too

small to cause any crisis in a world market currently awash with crude.

Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a northerner, sacked oil minister Saleh Abu Bakr Al Hussainoun on Friday.

A day later he accused Mr. Hussainoun, a member of the southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), of diverting \$375 million in oil revenues to his own account and those of other YSP leaders.

Yemen's oil comes from the Marib area in the north and Masila and Shabwa, across the old border in former South Yemen.

The Marib area, about 150 kilometres east of Sanaa, normally produces about 195,000 b/d of crude.

Officials at the export terminal of Ras Isa told Reuters by telex that Marib, operated by a hunt oil company subsidiary, was producing normally on Sunday despite the war.

Asked if there was fighting near Ras Isa, on the Red Sea coast west of the capital Sanaa, the officials replied: "Negative. All calm even if a state of alert exists. We have plans (to load) a ship tomorrow."

Both sides give differing accounts of the course of the

war, but it appears to be concentrated in the province between the old border and the southern port of Aden and not around the oil-producing areas.

The southern Masila block, where Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd. (Canox) produces 140,000 b/d of crude oil, is nearly 500 kilometres east of Aden and well away from the ground fighting.

Canox said Thursday that its staff in Aden had left during an evacuation of foreigners by French warships, but it added that work at Masila was going on as normal.

Yemen's third oil-producing area is Shabwa, where southern troops and tanks have been sent in recent months.

The Saudi-owned oil firm Nimir Petroleum started producing in Shabwa last year at an initial rate of 5,000 b/d.

Over 20 foreign oil firms were operating in Yemen before war broke out, mostly exploring new areas. It was not clear how many of their employees had already been evacuated by Western planes and ships which have taken hundreds of foreigners out of the country in the last few days.

## Indian state banks lose \$1.2 billion in 1992-93

NEW DELHI (AFP) — State-run Indian banks together posted losses of \$1.2 billion for the 1992-93 financial year which ended in March last year, a central bank report said Sunday.

Only the State Bank of India (SBI), with 8,700 branches across the country, made money. It recorded profits of \$93 million between April 1992 and May 1993, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report said.

The SBI's net profit in the previous fiscal year was \$81 million, according to the Trend and Progress of Banking India report.

Bank deposits were affected by a \$1.3 billion bank and securities fraud which emerged in April 1992 following the crash of the Bombay Stock Exchange. Several Indian and foreign banks were indicted in the scandal.

The performance of overseas banks was equally dismal with total losses of \$280 million against a profit of \$106 million the previous year, the RBI report added.

The report flayed national banks for overspending, poor loan recovery and bad investments.

It called for stronger supervision "to promote a safe, stable and efficient financial system."

## Digital Equipment may slash 20,000 more jobs

MAYNARD, Massachusetts (R) — Digital Equipment Corp., warning that its "entire enterprise could be at risk" may cut as many as 20,000 jobs as part of a major restructuring aimed at drastically cutting costs, the company has said.

Digital chief executive Robert Palmer, in a message to the computer maker's top managers and employees, said the reduction in Digital's 85,000 work force would be carried out over the next two years. The company, which has lost more than \$3 billion in the last three years, reported an unexpected \$183 million deficit in its latest quarter.

## Lack of confidence, corruption hit Kenya

NAIROBI (R) — Policy turnabouts and corruption have sharply undermined investor confidence in Kenya and hampered economic growth, economists and business leaders say.

Economists said confidence in Kenya's management of reform had waned in the last decade because of inconsistency and unpredictability in the political system.

"The reluctance of the government to take prompt action on cases of corruption has dampened the investment climate. Existing investors either hold on to current investments or cut back," the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), a private think tank, said in a statement issued Sunday.

"Political patronage in economic decision-making and unending politically instigated ethnic strife have adversely affected the sanctity of property which is one of the crucial conditions for the creation of an attractive investment climate," it added.

President Daniel Arap Moi, who rarely admits policy failures in public, conceded at an investors' conference that ended in Nairobi Saturday that Kenya had experienced previous economic management problems.

"There is a feeling among investors that government tended to enforce the regulatory framework and laws selectively in what amounts to corruption," President Moi said. "We do not condone corruption."

President Moi, stung by investor pessimism about his commitment to the sweeping economic changes he was persuaded by global donors to implement a year ago, also repeated pledges not to renege again on reforms.

Finance Minister Musalia Mudavadi, seen as the leader of moves to implement reforms, has pledged to press on with recent measures and launch new ones to ensure rapid and sustained development.

"I will continue reform of a variety of regulations to enhance an enabling environment for the private investor," he said at last week's conference.

In March last year, President Moi's government announced it had floated the Kenyan shilling, freed interest rates and removed import and export restrictions to boost trade. It retracted the changes a month later, saying they hurt ordinary citizens.

But in June 1993, Kenya announced it would resume the economic reforms in earnest sparking a resurgence of optimism among investors.

Reforms praised by investors included abolition of most price controls, removal of restrictions on the export of dividends and profits and on domestic borrowing by foreign-controlled firms. Others are guaranteed free access to offshore credits for residents firms and free remittances for business travellers.

## World Bank wants more investment in women's health

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank, citing alarming statistics showing 1,000 women die in childbirth each day, said it plans to push for greater investment in a holistic approach to women's health.

"Immediate priorities for the World Bank and its partners... are to support cost-effective programmes to reduce maternal death rates immediately and drastically," the bank said in a statement.

The bank's comments were in line with President Clinton, who made women's health the main topic of his weekly radio address Saturday.

"Too often, our health care system leaves women behind," Mr. Clinton said. "Even when treatments are available, women don't get the necessary health care they need because they have inadequate insurance, or none at all."

Progress has already been made in cutting the number of maternal deaths in some parts of Latin America and Asia, but in most of Africa and the number rises annually, the bank said.

About 500,000 women worldwide die in childbirth each year, the bank said, an overall increase since 1987, when the bank started a safe motherhood initiative to raise awareness of the problem and find solutions.

The situation is worst in developing countries, the bank said, where "women's disproportionate poverty, low social status and reproductive role expose them to high health risks, resulting in needless and largely preventable suffering and premature death."

One key to a solution is a "holistic approach" to women's health, said Anne Tinker, senior health adviser to the bank.

"There is increasing interest in the international community in a life-cycle approach to women's health and nutrition which includes... such issues as gender discrimination in nutrition and health care during childhood, early pregnancy in adolescence, problems of women beyond reproductive age, and violence against women," Ms. Tinker said in the statement.

To break the chain of poor maternal health, the bank said special emphasis should be placed on adolescent girls, to stop the cycle of early childbearing, poor health and nutrition and poverty.

So far, the bank said it has allocated \$5.7 billion since 1986 to more than 100 health, population and nutrition projects that have a focus on women's health.

## Arabs seek to save ailing overseas bank

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states will send their top bankers in Vienna next week for talks with their European counterparts on how to rescue their banks from possible collapse due to strong competition from the much larger units in the continent.

The May 10-12 conference, to be attended by more than 200 officials and bankers from the two sides, follows warnings that the nearly 125 Arab banks abroad could be forced out of business in a single European market unless they upgrade services and boost capital.

Most of those banks are small units which mushroomed during the oil boom 15 years ago, when Arab oil producers began to build up a massive investment empire in the West from their financial surpluses.

Their combined capital is estimated at around \$300 million, an average \$4 million for each. Yet calls to raise their capital or merge have fallen on deaf ears despite the possible collapse of some of them.

Arab Banks Union (ABU) Secretary-General Adnan Al-Hindi recently repeated warnings that the emergence of giant banks in the EU and other world economic groups could spell the death sentence for some Arab banks.

"Those bank banks are facing a dilemma now because they have to heed our recommendations and boost their financial position either through merger or increasing the capital to face growing world competition and meet the Basle requirement," he said. "They have made no move so far. They will face difficulties in a single EU market and several of them could shut down."

The Basle committee, created by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) five years ago, has recommended an eight per cent floor for capital adequacy in banks worldwide to ensure they have enough funds to face crises.

Those with low adequacy, the ratio between shareholders' equities and assets, could be boycotted by industrial countries. The move has prompted bank reforms in most Arab states to bring their units in line with BIS rules.

But Arab banks abroad, some suffering from bad debts, have made no move to boost capital and bankers said most of them fell far short of the BIS level.

"One of the best solution to their problem is merger since their resources on an individual level are limited," one banker said. "But I think Arab governments should step into the breach by placing more funds with them."

In a statement distributed here, the Beirut-based ABU, which groups more than 80 per cent of the Arab World's 308 banks, said Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky would open the Vienna conference entitled "Prospects of Cooperation Between Arab and Foreign Banks."

It said the meeting, the biggest of its kind, would cover activities of the Arab banks abroad, carrying out joint auditing by Arab and foreign monetary authorities on those banks, developing their operations by introducing new services, and identifying obstacles facing them and proposing solutions.

"ABU decided to hold this conference in a foreign capital in the light of the significant developments on the regional and international arenas, especially in the EU banking and monetary sectors," Dr. Hindi told AFP.

"It is intended to create quiet and fruitful dialogue between the two sides to discuss crucial matters of interest to both parties. This will help us improve the image of the Arab banking sector abroad and ensure safety and stability for it in the international market," he pointed out.

## Japanese banks need 'several more years' to clean up loan mess

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese banks still need "several more years" to clean up their balance sheets despite the record level of loan write-offs last year, Standard and Poor's Asia Ltd. has said.

"On the other hand, further downgrades are less likely now that the ultimate loss attributable to asset quality problems can be more accurately predicted," the rating agency said.

The figure represents a "small increase" from the previous six months but is "substantially above" the figure of 13.7 trillion yen at Sept. 30 disclosed by the 21 major banks — 11 city banks, seven trust banks and three long-term credit banks — because of its broader definition of problem loans.

"Trust banks followed by the long-term credit banks have the largest amount of problem loans as a percentage of related assets. This reflects, in part, their role as major lenders to borrowers in the real-estate, construction and non-bank finance industries," the agency said.

The average rating for Japanese banks is currently in the "B" category, down from "A-plus" in 1992 and "AA" in 1993. At the same time, the outlook for most Japanese banks is "negative," the agency said.

In its most recent downgrading of seven Japanese banks, Standard Poor's cited a further increase in problem loans, albeit at a slower pace than last year, along with a decline in the value of real-estate collateral.

The agency also noted, in

some cases, the increasing likelihood of Japanese banks having to bear "most of the responsibility" for writing off loans to the country's crippled housing loan industry.

The agency estimated the combined problem assets of the 23 banks it rates at between 30 trillion yen and 35 trillion yen (between \$285 billion and \$335 billion) for the 1993-94 fiscal year ended March 31.

The figure represents a "small increase" from the previous six months but is "substantially above" the figure of 13.7 trillion yen at Sept. 30 disclosed by the 21 major banks — 11 city banks, seven trust banks and three long-term credit banks — because of its broader definition of problem loans.

"Trust banks followed by the long-term credit banks have the largest amount of problem loans as a percentage of related assets. This reflects, in part, their role as major lenders to borrowers in the real-estate, construction and non-bank finance industries," the agency said.

"On the other side of the coin are the regional banks which have the smallest amount of problem loan exposure both in absolute terms and relative to assets," it said. "It will take several years for the banks to clean up their balance sheets, as the equity market is likely to remain closed to them and the prospect for a significant rebound in core profitability remains slim."

"In addition to pushing bankruptcies and consequently banks' non-performing loans to historical highs, the ongoing recession also has forced many of the banks to extend substantial financial support to their non-bank affiliates. In the case of regional banks, such support represents their most serious financial burden as their core lending activities have only been marginally affected by the recession," the agency said.

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For registration and more details, please call the administration on the above numbers.

## Readers

YES SIR I'M SUPPOSED TO INTERVIEW A BUSINESSMAN SO I HAVE THESE QUESTIONS...

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED AS A BARBER?

IS THERE ROOM FOR ADVANCEMENT? WHAT ABOUT HEALTH CARE? IS IT A GOOD CAREER FOR WOMEN?

Y'ALL COME BACK NOW, Y'HEAR?

YOU DID A NICE JOB ON THAT GUY..

SAV! THE LITTLE GUY WITH THE HIGH HAT AND WHISKERS!

YOU'RE THE FUNNY LITTLE FELLA WHO MAKES EVERYBODY LAUGH WITH YOUR JOKES AND DON'T FUNNY THINGS, RIGHT?

YOU'RE THE GUY WHO RAN INTO MY CAR LAST WEEK JUST FOR LAUGHS-- RIGHT?

I GOT A TWIN BROTHER WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE ME!

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MAY 9, 1994  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You are able to proceed with plans of magnitude, so start the new week on a constructive note and get excellent results as the moon in Taurus sextiles Saturn and Mercury moves into Gemini.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Study personal financial matters and make sure your records are correct. If you have any doubts, consult an expert to be sure they are accurate.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Plan the most practical way to gain personal goals and get wheels rolling without delay. Avoid one who is tricky and could cause trouble.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Sit in the quiet of your study and plan how to gain whatever means the most to you. Show that you are thoughtful to those around you.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Try to please those in high position and gain the support you need. Listen to what an expert has to say on any subject.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Go after your aims in a positive manner and gain fine benefits at this time. Analyse your progress in the evening to determine your success.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Be more alert to new ways of doing things so that you get better results in the future. Maintain a pleasant manner to all you come across.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Cooperate more with persons you deal with in business and get better results. Make sure to improve your appearance and you will be a success.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Try to please an associate more and prevent possible misunderstandings. Strive to be more successful in the eyes of those in charge.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You have many tasks to handle during the day, so do them efficiently and forget about going on a pleasure spree at this time.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Go to the right source for the data you need. Stop putting off important duties at hand and gain added benefits through your efforts.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Go ahead with plans to improve conditions at home after consulting with family members. Budget your money wisely to have some for the future.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Make long-range plans which can bring excellent benefits in the future. You can easily gain a personal aim now which you have strongly desired.

## THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS  
1 Certain building  
6 High dog  
9 Reused  
13 Poetry Muse  
14 Weaving machine  
16 Cuts off  
17 A unit in  
18 "Dishonest"  
19 Neighbor  
20 Those accused  
21 Move slowly  
23 Table scraps  
24 Patently raised  
26 Death  
30 Harass  
32 Cupid  
33 Carver and Irving  
35 His slightly  
37 Shadow  
41 Food wrapping  
43 Beat out  
44 Observed  
45 FDR's pet  
47 Planks  
49 Fix, as a drain  
51 Plot  
54 Radical  
56 Nonverbal king  
57 Certain Christian  
63 "Damn Yankees" name  
64 A Croyen  
65 Mann's "Turn"  
66 Square  
67 Shadow  
68 Soap opera role for Ms. Lucci  
69 Dispatched  
70 Spring move (cherry)  
DOWN  
1 Chow, e.g.  
2 A garnish  
3 Month  
4 Suit to  
5 "The Fourth of July"  
6 Fold  
7 Hall-of-Famer Rogers  
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## U.N. military observers begin deployment in Bosnian enclave

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Six U.N. military observers have been deployed in the north-eastern Bosnian enclave of Brcko and 10 others are to be sent there Sunday, the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) announced.

The deployment of the 16 observers at four observation posts near the Bosnian Serb frontlines is in line with an agreement reached earlier this week between the UNPROFOR and local Serb authorities in Brcko.

The UNPROFOR Thursday also announced that 14 additional observers were to be deployed northwest and south of Brcko.

Their presence is aimed at averting fighting in the strategically located region that includes a corridor linking Serbia proper with territory held by the Bosnian Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia.

Meanwhile, a senior U.N. official met Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic Sunday and defended a controversial decision by U.N. envoy Yasushi Akashi to allow Bosnian Serb tanks to transit through a NATO exclusion zone around Sarajevo.

Sergio De Mello, U.N. civil affairs coordinator for ex-Yugoslavia, told reporters after the meeting that the agreement on the tank movement reached by Mr. Akashi Tuesday with Bosnian Serb leaders was made "in the context of a rather complex and long negotiation."

Mr. De Mello said he was "not in Sarajevo to admit mistakes," but declined to provide details of his discussions with Mr. Izetbegovic, who has demanded Mr. Akashi's dismissal over the issue.

Since Mr. Akashi agreed to allow seven Serb tanks to pass through the NATO-enforced 20-kilometre (12-mile) exclusion zone around the Bosnian capital, five have transited to the Trnovo region south of the city, a sixth has been blocked by U.N. troops near the Serb-held suburb of Lukavica and a seventh has gone missing in Serb-held Grbavica, close to the city centre.

The Bosnian authorities, angered by Mr. Akashi's decision, have written to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali asking him to sack Mr. Akashi, and have said they will refuse to cooperate with the

envoy any longer.

U.N. peacekeeping officials in Sarajevo were also dismayed at the decision.

Mr. De Mello said he would "certainly not" replace Mr. Akashi in subsequent dealings between the United Nations and the Bosnian authorities.

Meanwhile, soldiers of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) continued searching for the missing Serb T-34 tank, UNPROFOR said in a statement early Sunday.

A U.N. source said Saturday that the tank was probably hidden in a large building such as a barn or a warehouse in or near Grbavica.

The concession for Serb tanks to pass through the Sarajevo exclusion zone was "not the only event that may have slowed down the peace process in recent times," Mr. De Mello said.

It was "perhaps not the most striking of the setbacks" suffered by the peace process, and mediators were hoping to resolve "other chronic problems," citing the situation in the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde, the northwestern Bihac region and "other hot-spots."

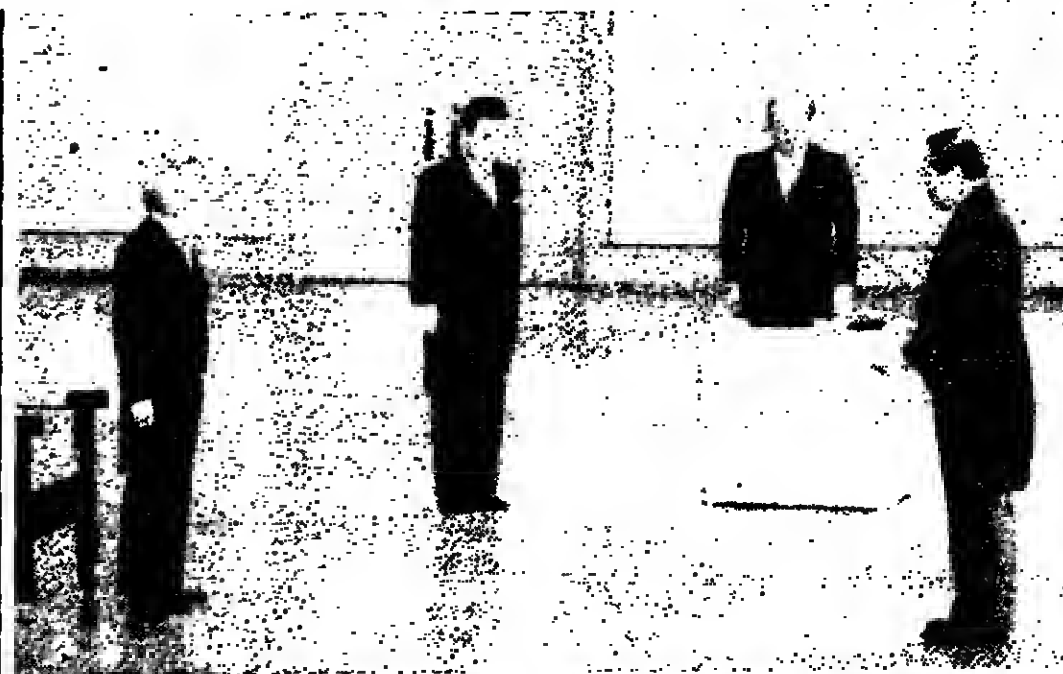
His talks with Mr. Izetbegovic had covered the situation in Gorazde where there remained "some seemingly minor but in fact very important differences" to resolve, notably the withdrawal of Bosnian Serb forces, "especially the Serb militia," from the three-kilometre (two-mile) exclusion zone.

Mr. Izetbegovic again insisted on full Serb compliance with NATO ultimatums and exclusion zones as a prior condition for agreeing to a country-wide ceasefire.

U.S. Senate Republican leader Bob Dole called Saturday for the removal of Mr. Akashi, saying he has been too soft on the Bosnian Serbs.

Sen. Dole, who has led a call for tougher U.S. action in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said Mr. Akashi and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali have been an obstacle to international efforts to help defend the Bosnian government.

He also reiterated his call for Washington to provide arms to the Bosnian government, saying such a measure is allowed under article 51 of the U.N. charter on self-defence.



Newly-appointed Japanese Justice Minister Hiroshi Nakai (right) listens to Emperor Akihito (left) with Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata (2nd left) during the attestation ceremony at the Imperial Palace following his predecessor's resignation (AFP photo)

## Japan gets new justice minister

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's new Justice Minister Hiroshi Nakai moved quickly Sunday to quell a storm of protest aroused by his disgraced predecessor's attempt to whitewash the country's wartime record.

"It is true that (the Japanese military) conducted cruel, in-describable acts in Nanjing," Mr. Nakai told a news conference after Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata had accepted his predecessor Shigeto Nagano's resignation.

Mr. Nagano, in an interview carried by Mainichi Shimbun Wednesday, had denied Japan waged an aggressive war in Asia in the 1930s and 1940s or massacred tens of thousands of Chinese civilians in Nanjing in 1937.

The remarks sparked protests from Asian countries which had suffered under Japan's military rule before and after World War II.

Mr. Nakai, sworn in Sunday by Emperor Akihito, is a member of the Democratic Socialist Party. It is his first appointment to a cabinet post.

Mr. Hata's decision to pick a new justice minister from a party other than his own Shin-

seito (Renewal Party) was widely interpreted as an attempt to deflect criticism that he was favouring his own group.

Mr. Nagano was a member of Hata's party, a fact which fuelled criticism of the prime minister's judgement in selecting him.

Mr. Hata's position as head of a fragile coalition minority government has been damaged by the controversy.

Opposition party members are expected to step up their attacks when parliamentary business resumes this week.

Mr. Nakai was confirmed by Emperor Akihito Sunday following his predecessor's resignation.

South Korea landed Mr. Hata Sunday for his "courageous" decision to fire his justice minister, but suspicion persisted in Seoul over rightists who deny Japan's World War II atrocities.

Mr. Nagano's dismissal "showed the determination and courage of Prime Minister Hata, who wants to have a correct recognition of the past and forge a new bilateral relationship," the South Korean

Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The statement was in contrast to newspaper commentaries that warned of a dormant rightist sentiment among Japanese government and political leaders.

"(Nagano's) resignation... could assuage the spreading outcry and ire in Asia to some extent. But, what really counts is Japan's thinking and feeling with regard to its military aggression against its neighbours," the Korea Times said in an editorial Sunday.

But government officials said privately that they hoped the fray would not hurt their efforts to build close ties with the new Japanese government.

The editorial echoed widespread public worry here over efforts by Japanese conservatives to revise the country's post-war constitution to allow the former colonial ruler to possess a stronger, more active military.

"Nagano's remarks raise suspicions about the true colours of the newly formed government led by Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata," the Korea Times said.

## New left poised to win Hungarian elections

BUDAPEST (AP) — Hungarians, scorched by growing economic hardship, voted for a new government Sunday that could include the same figures who lost power as Communists four years ago.

The vote marks the second free election after more than four decades of communism.

Voters cast ballots for both individual candidates and party lists to fill the 386-seat legislature. There are 1,876 candidates.

The latest surveys prior to the balloting had the ex-Communists, the Socialists Party, well ahead with 30 per cent, double that of their next closest rival, the Liberal Free Democrats.

High unemployment and inflation stemming from the country's conversion to capitalism have prompted calls for a return to the era of full employment and state support for the disadvantaged.

"We need another four years to complete our mission," Prime Minister Peter Boross pleaded with voters in his last campaign appearance.

Opinion polls said his governing Hungarian Democratic Forum is supported by only 9 per cent of the electorate.

Despite that, Mr. Boross looked upbeat as he entered a polling station in Budapest's second district.

"We made mistakes, but not as many as any left-wing government would," he told reporters. "You can get a lot of votes with promises. But you also have to know how to govern."

Insurance salesman Tibor Szemerey, casting his Socialist vote in another district, declared of the government: "I've had it with these people."

Unemployed factory worker Karoly Kovacs, said "every normal person today votes left. The government wrecked this country — we've had enough of them."

More than 15 parties, ranging from far right to Marxists are vying for the support of more than 8 million voters. But only the Socialists, the Democratic Forum, the Free Democrats and the Young Democrats are expected to garner enough support to play major roles in the new government.

A runoff vote will take place on May 29 for districts where no one candidate wins at least 50 per cent of the vote.

The last Communist government of Miklos Nemeth was widely seen as pragmatic and competent. Gyula Horn, Mr. Nemeth's foreign minister, now leads the Socialists.

Mr. Horn is recovering from injuries suffered in a car accident Thursday. He was expected to be released from the hospital by the end of the week.

## ICRC evacuates some from Kigali hospital

GENEVA (Agencies) — The Red Cross Sunday began evacuating patients from the overflowing hospital in the embattled Rwandan capital Kigali, taking them to a clinic in the south, a spokesman of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

The "routine" operation to transfer patients to Gikuramba will help "balance the distribution of sick and wounded people between the different available hospitals," he said, Rwanda has been wracked by ethnic massacres for more than a month.

He was not able to say how many patients were involved and if medical staff were also being transferred.

Fighting in Rwanda between Tutsi rebels and Hutu-dominated government forces over the last weeks has killed more than 100,000 and forced more than double that number to flee their homes for neighbouring countries, especially Tanzania.

The two sides were still battling for control of Kigali at the weekend, casting serious doubts over two separate cease-fires due to come into force.

The United States and Tanzania have called for more international monitors to be deployed in the country.

Rwandan rebels near Kigali are poised to make an assault on the government-controlled airport, a vital link to the outside world for U.N. and relief flights supplying the embattled city.

"Obviously that's our target," Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) Captain Emmanuel Rugamba told Reuters late Saturday as he pointed to Kanombe Airport from Gasogi Hill, where rebels have advanced in the last four days.

RPF artillery and soldiers, dug in among banana plantations on a low hill, overlook the government army's Kanombe barracks and the two sides clashed fiercely Saturday.

"The enemy tried to dis-

## Major's government hit by sex scandal, poll shock

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major's government, routed in local elections last week, was hit by yet another sex scandal Sunday and an opinion poll showing it also faces humiliation in next month's European elections.

The double blow added to the problems of Mr. Major, the most unpopular premier on record, who could face a challenge to his leadership of the ruling Conservatives who ousted his predecessor Margaret Thatcher in 1990 as an election liability.

A Sunday Times poll predicted the Conservatives would win just 12 seats in the European Parliament elections on June 9 compared to 56 for the opposition Labour Party and 14 for the centrist Liberal Democrats.

In last week's local council elections, the Conservatives slumped to just 27 per cent of the vote behind the opposition parties.

Now the government, hoping to put on a united front in the leadup to the next crucial electoral test, has been hit by an embarrassing resignation.

Michael Brown, a junior "whip" or government manager in parliament, stepped down after the News Of The World tabloid splashed on its front page allegations he had a homosexual relationship with a Conservative MP.

Mr. Brown, a member of parliament for the past 15 years, said he would take legal action against the paper. "This will require my personal and direct attention which I could not pursue as long as I remained in government."

Behind Gasogi Hill, dozens of guerrillas rested in the village of Kabuga which the RPF captured in its latest advance.

Government soldiers held out for several days and the tall firs from mortar bombs litter the muddy streets and damaged buildings.

Rebels said members of the pro-government "Interhamwe" militia were among the defenders of Kabuga.

## Clinton, advisers discuss Haiti policy changes

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton discussed U.S. policy toward Haiti with his national security advisers as Republicans urged him against using the U.S. Armed Forces to dislodge Haiti's military rulers.

Meanwhile ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide expressed scepticism about the possibility of U.S. military action in Haiti and the threat of tighter U.N. sanctions.

In a television interview aired Saturday, Mr. Aristide said on CNN's "Both Sides" with Jesse Jackson: "We have to see a political will coming from the U.N., from the U.S., to make sure they will pass from statements to actions, because our country looks like a house on fire."

Mr. Aristide dodged questions about whether the Haitian people would support U.S. military intervention, saying he would be impeached under his constitution if he asked for it.

White House officials said one item Mr. Clinton and his advisers discussed was speeding the processing of Haitians

## Clinton, advisers discuss Haiti policy changes

who are seeking political asylum in the United States to escape repression at home.

The Clinton policy of forcibly returning Haitian refugees who flee their country by boat has led to two protests in front of the White House by several members of Congress and a 26-day hunger strike by activist Randall Robinson.

Officials said there would not be a change in the policy of returning to Haiti those Haitians not deemed political refugees. But they said Mr. Clinton and his aides were discussing options to speed long delays in the processing of the thousands seeking asylum.

White House officials said after the two-hour meeting that the whole Haitian policy was under review and modifications would be made but it was unsure when an announcement would be made.

Options under consideration were setting up new processing centres about U.S. ships or in nearby third countries and improving the processing facilities in Haiti, officials said.

Also under review were ways to provide greater security to refugees intercepted at sea by U.S. authorities and returned to the island, they said.

Mr. Clinton and his advisers, including Vice President Al Gore, Defence Secretary William Perry, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, among others, held their second meeting in two days on Haiti.

They also discussed a U.N. Security Council resolution that will impose a nearly total embargo on Haiti on May 21 if Haiti's military rulers do not resign by then.

Mr. Clinton has said he cannot rule out military force to drive out Haitian Armed Forces Commander Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras and his top brass if the sanctions fail. His objective is to restore to power the democratically elected Aristide.

A poll showed Americans were sceptical about the use of force in Haiti. A CNN-Time magazine poll said 55 per cent of Americans opposed U.S. military intervention in Haiti with only 24 per cent in favour.

## WEU defence group to take East Europe into fold

BRUSSELS (R) — The Western European Union (WEU) defence group opens its doors to Eastern European nations Monday, offering them close political ties and the possibility of joint peacekeeping and other military operations.

The WEU, long overshadowed by the U.S.-led NATO during the cold war, has recently won a new lease of life as the 12-nation European Union (EU) develops a common foreign and security policy. It could one day become Europe's defence arm.

Foreign and defence ministers from the WEU will invite six Eastern European states and three Baltic republics to become "associate partners" Monday in Luxembourg.

Ministers from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania — all countries anxious for closer ties with the West — will also attend the Luxembourg meeting.

The scheme is intended to complement NATO's "partnership for peace" plan, which offers all former Warsaw Pact members greater military cooperation, and is linked to Eastern Europe's growing cooperation in trade and other fields with the EU.

While the countries involved will not have security guarantees or the right of veto over WEU decisions, they will

attend regular meetings in Brussels and can take part in military planning and operations if they wish.

Since the end of the cold war, the nine-nation WEU has taken on a limited role in European crises, including helping to enforce sanctions against Serbia on the Danube and with a naval force in the Adriatic.

It is still very much the junior partner to NATO but now has forces assigned to it, including a new "Eurocorps" that brings together troops from France, Germany, Spain and Belgium.

NATO has also said it could lend certain key military assets — including headquarters units — to the WEU for use in crises when the alliance is unwilling or unable to take action itself. Ministers will discuss how that will work in practice.

Eastern European nations want to join both the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the European Union but have failed to win firm promises on a timetable. Despite that, Poland, and Hungary have formally applied to join the EU.

Members of the WEU are in both NATO and the European Union. They are France, Britain, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain, Portugal and Italy. Greece is joining but the

agreement has not yet been formally ratified.

On Bosnia, WEU ministers will discuss the possibility of contributing a force of up to 400 police for the city of Mostar, which may be put under European Union administration.

Diplomats said there may be some informal discussion of who will succeed WEU Secretary-General Willem Van Eekelen, due to step down before the end of this year.

His original mandate ran out at the end of April but WEU members agreed recently to prolong it for six months.

Meanwhile, Sweden and Finland break a tradition of firm neutrality that endured throughout the cold war Monday when they forge a formal link with NATO by signing the alliance's "partnership for peace".

The partnership, originally designed to provide closer military links between NATO and its former enemies, will enable the two countries to take part in joint peacekeeping exercises and other training with the alliance.

Fifteen countries from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have signed the partnership scheme so far, many of them in the hope that it will help them become full members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

While Sweden and Finland have no intention of joining the 16-nation alliance, they plan to join the European Union next year. The EU is developing a common foreign and security policy.

NATO has accepted Sweden and Finland as participants in the scheme because both countries have long experience in U.N. peacekeeping operations which could prove useful to the alliance as it takes on new missions in the post-cold war world.

Finland has already suggested setting up a peacekeeping college in Helsinki to which NATO countries and others would be invited to send officers for training, alliance sources say.

"Unlike the Eastern Europeans, these countries are not interested in help with issues such as defence planning," said one source. "They feel they have something to offer and that neutrality clearly no longer has the same meaning that it did."

Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas and Finnish Foreign Minister Heikki Haavisto will sign the partnership at NATO Headquarters Monday.

Alliance sources said both countries would then present NATO with a detailed outline of the cooperation they want under the scheme Tuesday.

## Guitarists break world records in mass jam session

VANCOUVER (R) — No less than 1,322 guitarists strummed a single song for more than one hour Saturday in a mass jam session that set two new records. They strummed the three chords of the Canadian rock anthem Taking Care Of Business for 68 minutes 40 seconds, according to a city councilman who kept the official time. It was the greatest number of guitarists ever to play together at one time and never before had the same song been played for so long. The marathon jam session, which opened a music trade show, drew guitarists aged between seven to 59 who played acoustic guitars, and some un-amplified electric guitars, in a sunny downtown Vancouver square. They were led by Randy Bachman, former guitarist of the groups Bachman Turner Overdrive and the Guess Who. The largest previous gathering of guitarists was 545 who played Hang On Sloopy for 45 minutes in Columbus, Ohio. The previous record for playing time was 65 minutes of Shake, Rattle and Roll played by 532 guitarists in Santa Cruz, California.

## Women's group denounces Miss Universe contest

MANILA (AFP) — About 150 members of a leftist women's group Saturday staged a picket near the stadium where the Miss Universe beauty pageant is to be held, attacking Philippine President Fidel Ramos for hosting the contest. The members of Gabriela accused Mr. Ramos of being "a world-class pimp," charging that the government's decision to host the Miss Universe contest was intended to promote sex tourism in this country. Speakers charged that more foreigners would come to this country in search of cheap prostitutes due to the publicity garnered from hosting the beauty pageant. They also charged that Mr. Ramos was using the contest to boost the prestige of his government, in the same way then-President Ferdinand Marcos hosted the Miss Universe pageant in 1974 to promote his martial-law regime. The protesters were prevented from approaching the stadium by a group of private security guards and policemen. The Gabriela members dispersed after a little over an hour. Seventy-eight contestants will be vying to succeed reigning Miss Universe Dayanara Torres of Puerto Rico in the May 21 pageant to be aired live on worldwide television.

## Survey: Japanese students live for the moment

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese high school students are carefree now but more pessimistic about their future than counterparts in the United States and Taiwan, according to an opinion poll. Asked if young people should enjoy themselves while they can, 52 per cent of the Japanese students responded affirmatively, compared with 22 per cent of the Americans and just 13 per cent for Taiwan. The survey of around 1,000 students in each of the three countries was taken late last year by the Japan Institute for Research on Youth, an affiliate of the Education Ministry. Only three per cent of the Americans said they were pessimistic about their own future, compared with 23 per cent for Japan and seven per cent for Taiwan.

## Man arrested for videotaped beating of collie

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — The owner of a year-old collie named Jazzy was charged with animal cruelty after neighbours videotaped him allegedly beating the dog with a garden tool and taping its mouth shut. Richard Eugene Griffith Jr., 36, was arrested. Police said neighbours videotaped him on April 23 attacking the dog in the back yard of his two-story home. The tape showed Griffith kicking the collie, throwing rocks at her and beating her with a wooden-handled garden tool, said police Sgt. Dann. The video depicts Griffith taping Jazzy's mouth shut before striking her with the garden tool numerous times. Griffith was released Saturday on \$5,000 bail. He faces two felony counts of animal cruelty. Each count carries up to one year in prison and a maximum fine of \$20,000. Griffith's attorney, Mark N. Phillips, said he wouldn't comment until he saw the videotape.



## Al Ahli, Al Jazireh to clash in U-22 basketball tourney

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Sports Palace in Amman will witness Monday one of the most competitive basketball matches of the season as Al Ahli clash with Al Jazireh in the first leg of the final round of the under-22 basketball competition — the first of the season's 12 events organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

Also Monday, Al Abbasi meet Al Jalil in their quest for third place.

The top four teams will play a second leg before the competition is concluded next week.

Although the four qualifying teams have demonstrated a promising standard, Al Ahli and Al Jazireh have proved that they will be the top contenders for the title.

Both teams have so far maintained an unbeaten record throughout the competition in which nine teams took part: Al Ahli, Al Abbasi, Yarmouk, Homentmen, Abu Nusair, Al Jazireh, Al Jalil, Gazet Hashem and Al Watani.

During the final round, Al Jazireh scored an impressive 109-47 (57-19) win over Al Jalil who were expected to give it a tougher fight, especially since their first round encounter had ended 84-75 for Al Jazireh.

Al Jazireh also beat Al Abbasi 82-56 (40-28).

Meanwhile, Al Ahli beat Al Jalil 91-47 (51-22), and Al Abbasi 91-55 (57-29).

So far, Al Ahli have scored more impressive and convincing victories thanks to well experienced players including Mohammad and Taimour Shamali, Ramez Hammoud, Wisam Nino, Zaid Alkhas, Faisal Ensour and Riyad Ayesh, in addition to an abundant number of substitutes.

During the preliminary round they scored crushing victories of 125-71 over Al Yarmouk; 160-43 over Abu Nusair; 140-55 over Homentmen and 98-65 over Al Abbasi.

Al Jazireh had a more difficult path. They overcame Al Watani 91-62; Al Jalil 84-75 and Gazet Hashem 116-36.

This season, Al Jazireh will again attempt to clinch the most titles. Last year they won the boys U-14 and U-16 titles, finished second in the U-19 competition, third in the first division and won the women's championship.

Their ambitious team is led by Ghaith Ennabi and new recruit Naser Alawneh who moved from Al Hussein for a reported sum of JD5000.

Abbasi, formerly a lowly second division club, qualified to the final round after losing only to Al Ahli. Their young team, led by Ashraf Samara, Tareq Najjar and Iyad Zalaimo, has been playing with greater confidence since they beat Al Orthodoxy to clinch third place in the 1993 under-19 competition back in January.

Al Jalil have also demonstrated that they are a team to be reckoned with despite withdrawing against Al Jazireh in the final minutes of their first round match. Al Jazireh had barely won the first half 43-41 and were leading 84-75 when the match was suspended.

The JBF had opted to commence the 1994 season with the U-22 tournament since it was cancelled in 1993. However many players this year also missed the competition since the JBF's regulations stipulate that only those born after 1973 can take part. Therefore, many players born in 1972 and who are still just under 22 could not compete for the second consecutive year.

Most teams were undoubtedly affected by this technically. Titleholders Al Orthodoxy, who won the last U-22 championship in 1992 opted not to participate this year. Similarly Al Ashrafieh, Al Hussein, Al Karak, Al Wifaq, Anjarah, Al Mafraq and Al Husun clubs did not play this season.

According to the JBF's 1994 regulations, first division teams are required to compete in at least two age groups, while second division teams in only one age group.

The JBF is now trying to upgrade competition and reclassify clubs. This year the first division includes only seven teams: Al Ahli, Al Orthodoxy, Jazireh, Jalil, Watani, Hussein and Homentmen. Two teams will be relegated in 1994 and only one team will be promoted from the second division making the total number of competing teams only six in 1995 compared to eight until 1993.

After meeting with representatives of competing clubs, the JBF recently rescheduled their 1994 competition in a way that would most benefit players taking into consideration school and university exams and a host of other related factors that hinder competitions and cause numerous postponements throughout the season.

The schedule was also readjusted according to the timetable of the national team's preparations for the Asian Games in Hiroshima in October. However, the Jordan Olympic Committee recently decided to exclude basketball and limit Jordan's participation to equestrian, shooting, athletics, taekwondo and karate.

## Go for Gin wins Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Go for Gin, a proven mud horse, handled the sloppy track at Churchill Downs Saturday, leading from the gate to win the 120th Kentucky Derby by two lengths.

Holy Bull, the 2-1 favourite, tripped over the Derby jinx and finished 12th in the 14-horse field.

Holy Bull became the 15th consecutive beaten favourite. The last betting choice to win the Kentucky Derby was another grey, Spectacular Bid, in 1979.

Strodes Creek, trying to become the first Kentucky Derby winner without a race as a 2-year-old since Apollo in 1882, closed strong to finish second. Blumin Affair finished third and Brocco, the second betting choice, was fourth.

Go for Gin won on a sloppy track — the first such conditions for a Kentucky Derby since 1948, completing the 1 1/4 miles (2,000 metres) in 2 minutes, 3 3/5 seconds. Strodes Creek was 2 1/2 lengths in front of Blumin Affair, who was three-quarters of a length in front of Brocco.

Completing the order of finish were Soul of the Matter, Tabasco Cat, Southern Rhythm, Powis Castle, Mahogany Hall, Smilin' Sam, Meadow Light, Holy Bull, Valiant Nature and Ulises, Kandaly was scratched.

Go for Gin now has raced five times on sloppy or muddy tracks and has three victories and two seconds. In his previous start, he had finished second in the Wood Memorial on a muddy track at Aqueduct.

Go for Gin took charge with a half-mile (1,000 metres) to go and turning for home it became obvious quickly that no one was going to catch the bay colt on this damp Saturday. It had rained Friday and much of Saturday afternoon, but the rain stopped for the Derby.

Go for Gin paid \$20.20, \$8.40 and \$5.80 to win, place and show on a \$2 bet. Strodes Creek, ridden by Eddie Delahoussaye, returned \$7.80 and \$6 to place and show on a \$2 bet while Blumin Affair, ridden by Jerry Bailey, was \$8 to show.

It was the second Derby victory for 39-year-old Chris McCarron, who was riding in his 12th Derby and last won in 1987 with Alysheba.

It was the second Derby triumph for co-owners William J. Crandall and Joseph Coracchia, who co-owned 1991 winner Strike the Gold with Giles Brophy.

Even more surprising than Go for Gin's victory was Holy Bull's dismal performance. The 2-1 favourite was so relaxed in the post parade that he did not need the assistance of a lead pony. But on this day, the muscular grey who was nicknamed "The Jinx" by a client, didn't wake up in the starting gate, either.

It has been his style to break on the top, and in five of his seven victories he went wire to wire.

At the end, Holy Bull was 18 lengths behind Go for Gin.

"It just wasn't meant to be," Mike Smith, Holy Bull's jockey, said. "He got away really bad. He got away flatfooted. Every step he tried to take was a wrong one."

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At the end, Holy Bull was 18 lengths behind Go for Gin.

"It just wasn't meant to be," Mike Smith, Holy Bull's jockey, said. "He got away really bad. He got away flatfooted. Every step he tried to take was a wrong one."

## Medvedev wins German Open

HAMBURG, Germany (AFP) — Andrei Medvedev won the German Open here Sunday, when he convincingly ended the giantkilling run of 20-year-old Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Medvedev swept to a 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory in the clay court classic.

Contrary to expectations, it was often a dull contest between two friends who spent part of Saturday evening playing backgammon together, but who failed to live up to their reputations as the most exciting young prospects in tennis.

The sunny but windy conditions may have played some part in that, but neither player showed any particular flair. They were evenly matched in many areas, especially the rallies, which consisted largely of tentative exchanges.

Medvedev did impress with his occasional change of pace, forcing the unsuspecting Kafelnikov, who had knocked out world number two Michael Stich Saturday, into errors.

The Russian also hit some impressive forehand passes, but they were buried inside a generally mediocre match.

Kafelnikov began by dropping serve in the first game, but broke back for 1-1 after Medvedev had led 40-15. The Ukrainian nearly lost his next service game too, from 40-0, but held on and then broke again for 3-2 when Kafelnikov netted a double-handed backhand.

That settled the first set, although Medvedev double-faulted on his first set point. In the second, Medvedev broke for 2-1, but again lost his serve in the next game.

Continuing the pattern of the first set, Medvedev broke

again, for 4-3, and went on to take the set.

Kafelnikov took advantage of a poor service game by Medvedev in the third to break for 4-2 and then broke the number four seed to love in the opening game of the fourth set.

But his brief revival was snuffed out in the next game, when Medvedev broke back for 1-1, and another, to love, gave him a decisive 4-2 lead.

"Yevgeny can do anything he wants. He's serving big. He's playing good at the net. Right now, he's so confident he's playing the best tennis he's capable of."

"With that confidence, he goes on to the court thinking he's not going to lose, so let's make it a quick one and get it over with."

Medvedev won \$245,000 for the title, while Kafelnikov earned \$129,000.

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## Asia to tackle soccer corruption

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Corruption, the Asian Cup and a bitter election battle will be topping the agenda when an Asian Football Confederation (AFC) congress opens here Monday.

The most explosive debate is expected when the AFC's technical committee tackles the subject of match-fixing, something seemingly unique to southeast Asia, whereby bookmakers profit by bribing players and so controlling match results.

"We have to ensure that this cancerous business of match-fixing is beaten once and for all," said AFC General Secretary Peter Velappan, who has often blamed corrupt soccer officials for being soft on the bookies and players involved.

"The national associations have to be convinced to take a greater stand against the problem. It looks to me as if the problem could be spreading as we speak," said Velappan Sunday.

AFC delegates also face an intensive week of lobbying from the four candidates vying for Asia's FIFA vice-president's position, one of four sets of elections this week.

The candidates are Sheikh Ahmad Fahad from Kuwait, Qatar's Mohammad Bin Hamam, Tadao Murata from Japan and South Korean Chung Moon-Jung.

Lo March, Velappan touched off a war of words when he accused two Chinese teams of working with Thai bookies to fix results in two tournaments played in Bangkok. Chinese soccer officials, while denying the charges, launched investigations but have yet to report back to the AFC.

Velappan declined to say whether the congress would lead to any specific new initiatives against match-fixing, which is considered especially rampant in Indonesia and Thailand.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dooan wins Spanish GP

JEREZ, Spain (R) — World championship leader Michael Dooan of Australia rode a cool race in the beat of Jerez to win the Spanish Grand Prix 500 race ahead of American Kevin Schwantz Sunday. Dooan allowed Schwantz to lead for 14 of the 27 laps on the 4.423-kilometre circuit but passed his rival on lap 15 and gradually opened up a slight but comfortable margin. The two were well clear of American John Kocinski, whose Cagiva could not match the speed of Dooan's Honda or Schwantz's Suzuki, leaving him almost 10 seconds behind the leading pair. The victory stretched Dooan's world championship lead over the pursuing Americans. He now has 86 points after four events with Schwantz and Kocinski together on 68.

### Barkley backs off retirement plans

PHOENIX, Arizona (AFP) — Charles Barkley, who vowed all season that this would be his last year in the National Basketball Association (NBA), is not so sure now. "I can't say I'm definitely not coming back, because once I say it, I can't change my mind," he said Friday. "And once I say 'Hey, I'm retiring,' then I am retired." For now, Barkley is concentrating on resting his aching back before the second round of the NBA playoffs, when his Phoenix Suns will meet either Houston or Portland.

### Cambodia returns to Asian Games

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AFP) — Cambodia will attend the Asian Games for the first time in 20 years at the Hiroshima event in October, organizers said Sunday. Cambodia will send six officials and nine athletes to Japan. Cambodia was excluded from the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in 1976 due to their local unrest. But they were readmitted last December. According to a preliminary survey, about 7,300 competitors and officials from 42 countries will take part in the 12th quadrennial event.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH  
1993-1994 Bridge Quiz

#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
+A86 AK38 KQJ962 +Void  
What is your opening bid?
- Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
+AK74 J953 J +A432  
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
+Q44 J9954 7 +K10954  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ 1 NT ?  
What action do you take?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
+A42 A10 AK962 +Q64  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ 1 NT ?  
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
+AQ10542 J Q9682 +2  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
2 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
+J8 AJ9542 KQ4 +A4  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
What do you bid now?

Look for answers on Monday.

## Senna's family denies paternity suit

SAO PAULO (AFP) — Leonardo Senna, the brother of Ayrton Senna, has flatly denied claims by a Brazilian model that the late motor racing world champion fathered her nine-month old daughter.

Lawyers acting for Marcela Prado said in Rio de Janeiro Friday, the day after Senna's funeral here, that she plans legal action to have baby Victoria recognised as his illegitimate daughter.

If the claim is proved in court, Victoria and her mother would be entitled to sue for half of Senna's fortune, estimated at \$60 million.

Senna was killed in a crash during the San Marino Grand Prix May 1.

Leonardo, indignant at the charge, said: "Why didn't she do anything while he was alive?"

"The girl is no daughter of Ayrton's," he insisted Saturday.

"It's unbelievable that people are already trying to take advantage of the situation. We're going through a very difficult period and, on top of that, we have to put up with stories like this."

Marcelle, who's real name is Edilaine de Barros Gonçalves, claims that Victoria was the result of a brief fling with the

Formula One hero in 1992. Meanwhile, the Senna is to be immortalised at the Portuguese racing circuit of Estoril, where officials have decided to name the final bend before the home straight after the triple world champion.

Circuit chief Joao Teotonio Pereira said: "This is where he won his first grand prix (1985) and opened a new era in Formula One."

"We decided to name this section of the track after him because we still haven't forgotten his qualifying lap for the 1986 Portuguese Grand Prix in a Lotus-Renault Turbo."

Circuit owners are also planning a monument to Senna at the track.

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### INVITATION

The Salt Handicraft Training Centre/ Noor Al Hussein Foundation invites you to its yearly exhibition of weavings and ceramics starting Wednesday, May 11, 1994 until Friday, May 13, 1994 from 11 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Israel to let in 4,000 more Palestinians

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel decided Sunday to allow another 4,000 Palestinians to enter the country to work, pushing the total number of labourers from the occupied territories to 12,500, officials said. Since the army sealed off the West Bank, and Gaza Strip on April 7, following a bus bombing which left eight Israelis dead, the closure has been progressively eased. All those granted work permits have to be over the age of 27, labour ministry spokesman Hanan Robin told AFP. Besides the 12,500 permits, Israel allowed 16,000 Palestinians, to return to work in occupied Arab East Jerusalem from April 18.

## Israel approves new Egyptian ambassador

CAIRO (AP) — The Israeli government on Sunday notified Egypt's Foreign Ministry that it accepted the appointment of Assem Megahed, as the new ambassador to Tel Aviv, ministry officials said. Mr. Megahed, 49, will replace Mohammad Bassiouny, who has been ambassador to Israel for more than seven years. Mr. Megahed graduated from Cairo's Ain Shams University School of Commerce in 1965 and joined the Foreign Ministry in 1968. He previously was posted to Afghanistan and Turkey and was a consul in Israel. He is married with two children.

## Israel votes on autonomy pact on Wednesday

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's 14-member cabinet on Sunday put off giving formal approval of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement signed in Cairo last week. Officials said the vote would be put off until Wednesday to give ministers time to study the details of the agreement signed in Cairo by Mr. Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat. Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein told reporters after the cabinet's weekly session that the agreement would also "be submitted as is customary in Israel" for the approval of the Knesset. Israel Radio said parliament would also meet Wednesday. Absorption Minister Yair Tsaban said he expected a heated debate, but that it would end in a victory for Mr. Rabin's government, which has a one-vote majority in the 120-seat parliament. "I believe we shall have a good majority. The problem is to convince our public opinion," Mr. Tsaban said.

## Skeete, oldest American, dies at 115

RADFORD (AP) — Margaret Skeete, listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest American, died Saturday at her home. She was 115. Mrs. Skeete had been bedridden since a fall three weeks ago, and died in her sleep, said her daughter, Verne Taylor. The Guinness Book of Records listed Mrs. Skeete for the first time in its 1993 edition, after verifying her age from an 1880 census that listed her as a two-year-old, Mrs. Taylor said. Mrs. Skeete also was listed in the 1994 edition. Mrs. Skeete was born Oct. 27, 1878 in Rockport, Texas. When her husband died 41 years ago, she moved from Texas to Radford to live with Mrs. Taylor's family. In addition to her husband, she outlived her other two children. Mrs. Skeete was unimpressed by her longevity. "I guess that's something, but it doesn't buy me anything," she said at her 115th birthday party last October. The oldest living person in the world is 119-year-old Jeanne Calment of France, according to Guinness.

## Zhirkovsky: New regime in the fall

BUDAPEST (AP) — Russian ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirkovsky, speaking to a meeting with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, claimed Sunday that President Boris Yeltsin planned a major Russian government shakeup. "Yeltsin told me there will be a new regime in Moscow in the fall," Mr. Zhirkovsky told reporters when he arrived at Budapest's Ferihegy airport Sunday. The fiery politician spoke as Serbs seek to pick him up hauled him to a waiting Mercedes. U.N. embargoes on Serbian-dominated former Yugoslavia include flight bans. He was accompanied by four Russian soldiers, including a colonel and a captain. Mr. Zhirkovsky plans to spend three days in Belgrade. A planned rally for him in the Serbian capital was banned, however, despite his support for Serbs in their wars in Croatia and Bosnia.

## U.N. observer killed in Kuwait accident

KUWAIT (AP) — The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) said Sunday that one of its officers was killed and another injured in a weekend traffic accident. In a statement, UNIKOM said Major Lei Runmin, a Chinese, died when his car overturned Saturday on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarised border area. He was 43. The cause of the accident was not known. Captain Wahab Kharuddin, a 35-year-old Indonesian observer who was in the same car, was injured and taken to a Kuwaiti hospital, where his condition was reported to be stable, the statement added. More than 300 observers have been monitoring the border area since the end of the Gulf war.

## Rabbani forces claim capture of key city

KABUL (AFP) — Forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani have entered the northwestern Afghan city of Baghlan, posing a direct threat to the strategic city of Pul-e-Khumri, a senior Defence Ministry officer said Sunday. General Khan Mohammad said Mr. Rabbani's forces captured Baghlan around 10:00 a.m. (0530 GMT) Saturday after fierce fighting. No independent confirmation was immediately available. Gen. Khan Mohammad said that former defence minister and Mr. Rabbani's main commander, Ahmad Shah Massoud, led the attack himself. "Now we can say that Pul-e-Khumri is besieged from all sides," he said predicting the city's fall "any time." Sporadic clashes had been going on since last month for the control of Pul-e-Khumri, about 20 kilometres south of Baghlan. The general did not say how many troops participated in the offensive nor did he give any casualty figures.

## 'India puts off missile test to placate U.S.'

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has asked to postpone this week's test launch of the new Prithvi ballistic missile, whose development the United States wants halted, a newspaper reported Sunday. The report came as Mr. Rao prepared to meet with President Bill Clinton in Washington on May 19 to discuss strained relations over defence and disarmament. Washington has been trying to negotiate a halt to the arms race in nuclear weapons and missiles between India and Pakistan. The U.S. State Department told New Delhi it was disappointed at the failure of the recent talks with Indian officials to persuade India to stop the production of nuclear material.

## Pilot error blamed for Zaire plane crash

KINSHASA (R) — Pilot error almost certainly caused the crash of a light aircraft which killed Zaire's acting foreign minister and a Tunisian presidential aide, Zairean Information Minister Ngongo Luwumbo said on Sunday. As the government announced a period of national mourning, Mr. Ngongo said the first indications were that the Zairean pilot of the two-engine Kingair fatally misjudged his approach to Kinshasa's Ndjili airport as he tried to land in the dark. "It looks as though he came in too low and hit a tree," said Mr. Ngongo. Foreign Minister Mpinga Kasenda, Tunisian presidential envoy Zine Al Abidine Mestiri, Tunisian Charge d'Affaires in Kinshasa Mustapha Takaya, and the head of Zaire's state electricity group SNEI, Bingota Mondoko, were among the nine passengers and crew killed in the crash, shortly after a midnight Saturday.

## S. Africans pledge themselves to reconciliation

SOWETO, South Africa (Agencies) — Nelson Mandela pledged to forget the past as he joined thousands of his countrymen in a Christian thanksgiving and reconciliation service Sunday, the eve of his election as South Africa's first black president.

"Nothing we can say can fully describe the misery of our people" under 46 years of racial repression," Mr. Mandela told a predominantly black interdenominational crowd at a soccer stadium.

"But the day we had been fighting for, the day we were working for has arrived," he said. "We are saying let us forget the past, let us hold hands, as we have done here."

Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) swept the April 26-29 election that was the first in South Africa to include the black majority.

With that victory, the ANC took control of parliament, which was to elect the president on Monday.

Mr. Mandela was to be inaugurated Tuesday in a ceremony attended by more than 40 heads of state.

Some 15,000 people attended Sunday's service, organised by the South African Council of Churches. A band struck up "Onward Christian Soldiers" when Mr. Mandela arrived just before noon. Surrounded by photographers, he shook hands with a line of people in wheelchairs, then a line of religious leaders, as he made his way across the field to take a seat on the stage next to Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The service was broadcast live on national television and radio.

A huge South African flag, its design chosen by black and white negotiators who opened the way to the election, was spread on the soccer field. Balloons in the flag's gold, green, white, blue, red and black colours were set free as the crowd sang the country's two national anthems at the end of the 2½ hour service.

As the crowd rocked to the beat and waved their hands, a mass choir from black and white churches sang hymns throughout the service.

Archbishop Tutu, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his own fight against apartheid, took part in the cornerstone of the service. He and other clergymen read statements acknowledging the crimes and pain of the past, and asking God's forgiveness.

The turnout for the service was low compared to the huge crowds that mobbed Mr. Mandela during his victorious campaign for last month's historic all-race elections.

Mr. Mandela, attended

Smiling members of the racially-mixed crowd at the service turned to their neighbours and shook hands or hugged after the appeal for reconciliation from Archbishop Tutu.

Mr. Mandela embraced Leon Wessels, minister of manpower in the outgoing white government of President F.W. de Klerk, who was among dignitaries at the service.

"There is one force in this country which has had a tremendous impact," said Mr. Mandela. "That is religion, that is the church."

He said church ministers had kept his spirits up during the 27 years he spent in jail for fighting apartheid. "Today, as a result of support we received...we are now ready to begin the great task of building our country."

Mr. Mandela, attended



Alan Boushak (left), leader of the African National Congress in the Western Cape regional assembly, and fellow assembly members smile for photographers on Saturday during a photo session before the assembly adjourned after the first historical mixed white-black session following general elections late last month (AFP photo)

session before the assembly adjourned after the first historical mixed white-black session following general elections late last month (AFP photo)

## Saudi rights group reports new arrests

NICOSIA (AP) — Saudi Arabia has stepped up a campaign to stamp out dissent, targeting university students, professors and other college employees in the latest sweep of arrests, an exiled human rights group said Sunday.

The London-based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), Saudi Arabia's only openly functioning human rights group, said that a professor of engineering, a college administration employee and a university student were among those arrested in the latest sweep by Saudi authorities.

The committee said in a statement faxed to the Associated Press that Dr. Hussein Mashhour Al Hazimi, a professor of engineering at the King Saud University in Riyadh, was arrested Thursday.

It said his house on the university campus was raided by authorities before the arrest. No reason for his arrest was given, the statement said.

The statement said two other arrests were targeted at relatives of the committee's spokesman, Dr. Mohammad Ben Abdullah Al Masaari, who is living in exile in London.

The group was set up one

year ago in Saudi Arabia, but it was declared "illegal" by the religious hierarchy, forcing members to flee the country.

The group's statement said Mohammad Ben Ibrahim Al Masaari, an employee of the deans office at the Islamic University of Imam Mohammad Ben Saud, and Luai Ben Abdullah Al Masaari, a student in the Oil and Minerals University, had both been picked up in the latest sweeps to determine how their relative had slipped out of the kingdom.

The committee said last week that authorities had ordered a sweep of officials and employees of the passport office and border guards suspected of helping Mr. Masaari's escape.

Last week the group reported the arrests of a poet, a writer and an academic.

Saad Al Faqih, the committee's director, said in a telephone interview last week that the crackdowns appeared targeted at non-religious intellectuals.

"What is new is that it is against writers, intellectuals and poets," he said, adding that in the past authorities' efforts were directed more at dissident Muslim scholars and public speakers.

## Observers get whiff of tension

(Continued from page 1)

help in creating stability and the right atmosphere which will bring life back to normal," Mr. Nasache said.

Mr. Johansen replied: "I think we will do our best to exercise the mandate to the benefit of the people."

The ceremony took place before a huge picture of the Ibrahim Mosque where the massacre took place and which is still closed to the public.

"The Arabs are wrong if they think that now the observers have arrived they will not see any more soldiers or settlers," said Abaron Domb, a senior member of the Jewish settlers' council.

"It's not the observers who will bring an end to the development of the Jewish presence in the town," said Mr. Domb.

The observers have appealed to the 120,000 Palestinians of Hebron to cooperate and call a special number to report incidents from Monday when street patrols begin.

Advertisements appeared in Arabic newspapers explaining the observers' role.

"We encourage you to call this number as soon as any incidents occur, or report them directly to members of the patrols, the advertisements said.

"The TIPH patrol the city of Hebron on foot and in cars."

said Stein Stos, director of the emergency department of the Norwegian Refugee Council.

"They will wear distinctive white uniforms (with white letters on red background) and will drive white cars marked with TIPH," he adverted said.

"By their presence the TIPH will promote security and monitor the safety of the Palestinians in the city... The TIPH will observe and report on possible violations of human rights."

"We will eventually number 160, but 60 men will be on patrol from the start," said Mr. Stos.

Norway is providing 90 observers, and Denmark and Italy 35 each for the renewable three-month mandate.

Under Palestinian pressure for international protection in the aftermath of the mosque massacre, Israel agreed to allow the deployment of up to 160 observers.

But the force has no police power, will not be allowed to operate in any zones declared closed by the Israeli army, and can only monitor on events in the town where some 400 armed settlers live.

Israel remains in charge of "maintaining order" in Hebron.

"Some militants in Hebron, who oppose the peace process, said they did not want the observers in their town."

## Hrawi and Hariri in dispute

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri and President Elias Hrawi are locked in a dispute over bringing more Christian politicians into the government, government sources said on Sunday.

They said Mr. Hariri, a Sunni Muslim, was threatening to refuse to leave his Beirut residence or take part in government activities because of a disagreement with Mr. Hrawi, a Maronite Christian, over who was to be brought in.

The sources said both men wanted to strengthen Christian representation in the cabinet but could not agree over names. Further details of the disagreement were not immediately available.

Relations between the government and the once-dominant Christian minority have been increasingly tense in recent weeks and the proposed cabinet changes appeared to be an attempt to improve them by bringing in more representative Christian politicians.

Half the present government are Christians — in line with the constitution — but they are not the most representative leaders. The most powerful Christian groups boycotted parliamentary elections in 1992, complaining that the community has been pushed aside since the 1975-90 civil war.

Christians outside the government complain that Mr. Hariri's government is too closely tied to Syria, which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon and is the main power broker in the country.

They say the government's composition and policies are unbalanced, that it is biased against the Christians and that it has failed to implement many provisions of the 1989 Taif accord that ended the war.

Their complaints mounted after the government began arresting members of the Lebanese Forces (LF), the biggest civil war Christian militia, in March and banned the group without giving a reason.

About 40 LF leaders, including its chief Samir Geagea — the most outspoken opposition figure in Lebanon — are being interrogated about a church bombing in February and the murder of a Christian rival in 1990.

Christians fear the action against the LF is an attempt to weaken their community. They say the government has not cracked down on Hizbollah, a Shiite Muslim fundamentalist militia operating against Israeli troops in South Lebanon.

Under the Taif accord all militias should have been disbanded, but the government says Hizbollah's activities are legitimate resistance against foreign occupation.

Muslim and Jewish services on Friday and Saturday as part of his bid to bring reconciliation to a fractured nation.

Mr. Mandela — wearing a prayer cap — told Jews gathered at a Cape Town synagogue on Saturday the new South Africa needed their skills and resources, and appealed to those overseas to return.

He also said whites had no need to fear black majority rule.

Speaking on the synagogue steps, Mr. Mandela said white living standards would not suffer although the priority of the new government of national unity led by the ANC was to improve the lives of blacks, coloureds and Indians.

On Friday, he told a Muslim congregation at a Cape Town mosque the involvement of religion in the new government would help curb corruption.

Mr. Mandela, attended

"We would like to clean the government of all forms of corruption, and one of the ways of doing this is to ensure that the church has a role in influencing the policies of the government."

The high moral values found in all religions should "penetrate into government structures," Mr. Mandela said.

The 75-year-old ANC leader flies back to Cape Town for the first session on Monday of the country's non-racial 400-seat national assembly.

The assembly, elected in the April 26-29 poll, will confirm Mr. Mandela as president prior to his official inauguration in Pretoria, on the steps of the Union Buildings where the National Party administered its apartheid policies for four decades.

Mr. Mandela's estranged wife Winnie has been snubbed in arrangements for the presidential inauguration, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

The Johannesburg-based Sunday Times said Winnie had not been invited to a 1,200-guest lunch with Mr. Mandela and other world leaders.

The paper said Mr. Mandela himself had asked organisers to ensure Mrs. Mandela did not attend. No immediate comment was available from the Mandelas.

The couple separated two years ago following Mrs. Mandela's conviction for kidnapping four black youths. Despite the conviction, she was included in the ANC electoral list.

The new democratic era began in earnest on Saturday as new ANC-dominated provincial assemblies met and blacks took political power for the first time in over three centuries.

## Two foreigners killed as Algerians rally for peace

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Gunmen killed two French nationals Sunday in an Algiers market place, security services said. They were identified as Henri Verges, 64, and Raymond, Paul Heleve, 67.

The security services said they worked as librarians. Islamic fundamentalists late last year warned foreigners to leave Algeria or face death.

The country has been torn by political violence since the army intervened in January 1992 to cancel second-round elections that the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

The killings came as thousands marched through Algiers in silence calling for national reconciliation.

It was the first attack on foreigners in more than one month. On March 28 a Russian chauffeur was shot and killed, and security forces said they tracked down and killed his assassins.

The military-backed government has sought to reassure foreigners with heavy security and major sweeps since fundamentalists began targeting foreigners in September.

Islamic extremists waging an insurgency that has left at least 4,000 people dead, aims to destabilise the government by driving out foreigners key to running the oil-based economy.

Algerian journalists, intellectuals and public officials have also been frequent assas-

sination targets since the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was barred from imminent election victory when a runoff was cancelled in January 1992.

Thousands of demonstrators, many of them veiled women and Muslim moderates, marched Sunday for peace talks and an end to the insurgency.

"Dialogue and an end to the flow of blood," read one banner in the procession in Algiers of about 12,000 people, twice that according to organisers.

An open letter to President Liamine Zerrouk, read to the crowd, called for dialogue with all parties (see page 2).

About 500 women in veils joined with women in Western dress, ululating and waving roses along the three-kilometre route from May 1 Square to the Martyrs' Square.

The protest, however, was far smaller than the 100,000 predicted by organisers, who included the long-ruling National Liberation Front.

The march for national reconciliation, heavily guarded by police, was among several in cities across Algeria that were organised by four parties and 30 associations of moderate Muslims.

On Tuesday an organiser was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen. Abdul Kader Kessal was a leading member of an association for children of veterans from Algeria's 1954-62 war for independence from France.

## Whipped American woman suspected spy — Iran paper

TEHRAN (Agencies) — An American woman who was whipped in public in Iran two weeks ago is suspected of being a spy, an Iranian newspaper said Sunday.

"This woman who claims to be a citizen of America has made interrogators suspect her of espionage activities," Jomhuri Islami said of Mary Jones, a 35-year-old Texan arrested in Tehran for drunken behaviour in Tehran.

The court had sentenced Ms. Jones to 80 lashes, a 10,000 rials (\$5.70) fine and deportation to America.

The newspaper did not say if Ms. Jones was still detained. There was no immediate comment from the Swiss embassy, which handles American interests in Iran.

Another newspaper, Kayhan, quoted Interior Ministry sources as saying Ms. Jones had obtained Iranian citizenship following her marriage to an Iranian, from whom she separated.

Kayhan said Ms. Jones could not be deported because she was an Iranian citizen.

Ms. Jones was picked up two weeks ago in the Shemiran neighbourhood in northern Tehran, allegedly in a drunken

state. She was immediately given 80 lashes of the whip after being found guilty in a court of "promoting prostitution" and ordered deported, newspapers said.

However, Kayhan said Ms. Jones insisted she would not leave because she has Iranian citizenship.

Kayhan charged on Thursday that Ms. Jones, who has been in Iran since 1983, came to Iran "without identity papers and with the aim of corrupting the young in Iran."

Jomhuri Islami charged Thursday that new information on Ms. Jones had led the authorities to believe that she was also engaged in espionage activities.

She visited the battlefield during the 1980-1988 war with Iraq and made "suspicious remarks" during interrogation after her arrest," it said.

However, a court contacted by AFP denied there were any evidence of espionage activities by Ms. Jones, and that she had been arrested on corruption charges only.

The interest section of the United States at the Swiss embassy in Tehran declined to comment on the case.

## COLUMN

## The Scream recovered

OSLO (R) — Norway's stolen masterpiece, The Scream was recovered undamaged and three people have been arrested, police said. Edward Munch's priceless 1893 painting, taken from the National Gallery in Oslo three months ago, was found at a hotel in the south of the country. "The painting was found today at Aagaardstrand Hotel and three people have been charged with assisting in handling stolen goods," police inspector Leif Lier told Reuters.

Munch had a summer cottage in Aagaardstrand Beach resort and painted many of his most famous works there. Mr. Lier declined to comment on whether a ransom had been paid for the painting of a wail-like figure, wide-mouthed in terror beneath a blood-red sky. But he confirmed the work, which had been taken out of its frame, was undamaged. A piece of the frame was found at a bus stop near Oslo earlier this month. The National Gallery has previously said the painting — waxed crayon and tempera on cardboard — could easily be smuggled outside its frame and cover of armoured glass. Mr. Lier said Norwegian Police had been helped by Britain's Scotland Yard in their hunt but declined to give any further information about the case. Art experts have said the painting is impossible to sell on the open market and a group of Norwegian investors have allegedly been involved in future talks about paying a ransom for the work, aiming to return it to the National Gallery.

Lemonade helps plane make emergency landing

ARKHANGELSK, Russia (AP) — An Aeroflot jet carrying 62 people made an emergency landing in this far north city after the crew managed to fix a faulty hydraulic system by pouring in lemonade, a news report said.

There were no injuries reported, but an airline duty officer in Moscow said the Tupolev-134 suffered serious damage when it touched down without part of the landing gear in place. The officer, Valentin Ignatiev, said he could not confirm the use of lemonade, as reported by the ITAR-TASS news agency, and would not speculate on what went wrong. It was the latest embarrassment for Aeroflot, which has been struggling to salvage its reputation after two air disasters this year killed a total of 199 people and highlighted Russia's poor air-safety record. Flight 2315 from Moscow to Arkhangelsk Saturday had 55 passengers and seven crew. As it prepared to land, two of the three sections of landing gear failed to come down, ITAR-TASS said, apparently because of a loss of fluid. The report said that while the plane circled, the crew "had to pour all the reserves of lemonade into the hydraulic system" and managed to lower one more section of landing gear. The cause of the incident was being investigated. Mr. Ignatiev said the plane ran off the runway and suffered wing damage. The airport in the White Sea City, about 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) north of Moscow, was closed for three hours.

Study: Nicotine patch helps heart disease victims

OMAHA, Nebraska (R) — Heart disease victims can safely use the nicotine patch to quit smoking, and the method may actually blunt the stress that withdrawal would otherwise place on their weakened hearts, researchers reported Sunday.

"These findings can boost the confidence of heart patients who want to stop smoking using the nicotine patch. In addition to no evidence of an increased risk, use of the nicotine patch significantly improved their success in quitting," said Stephen Kiehl, a researcher at the University of Nebraska who was involved in the study. The report was published in this month's Archives of Internal Medicine. The study involved 156 smokers with stable coronary artery disease in four medical centres across the country. Some of the patients were given the Nicoderm brand patch to help them stop smoking while others received an inert placebo patch. Researchers said 36 per cent of the patients with the patch were able to stop smoking, compared to 22 per cent of those with the placebo.